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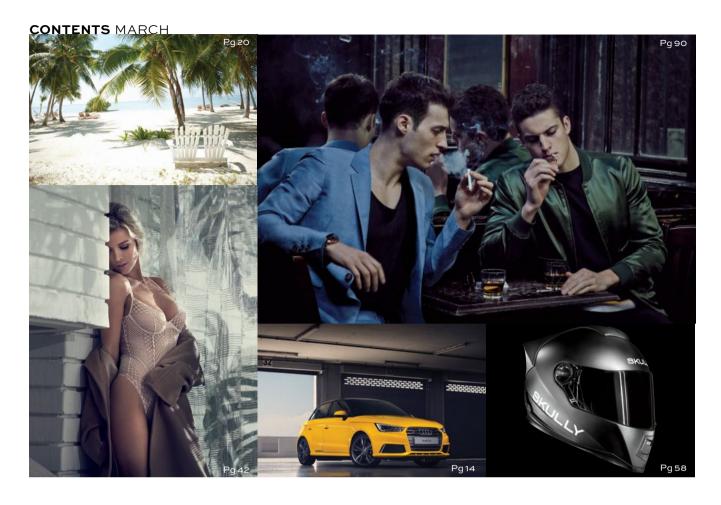
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60 **THRILL SEEKERS**

Capture your crazy antics with these prolevel action cams.







I DARE YOU TO SAY "CHOKER" ONE MORE TIME!

As a keen high school cricketer, I honestly believed that if I applied myself, I could quite possibly play for South Africa. That was until I went to the SA schools trials, and realised just how insignificant my natural sporting ability was. So, I left that for guys

like AB, Dale, and #. These guys could have chosen any sport, and excelled; but lucky enough, they chose English Willow and a leather ball. Four years have gone by, and we are heading to crown the number-one cricket team in the world, again, I really like our chances. I'm not just saying this as a patriotic, die-hard Proteas supporter, because honestly, we have the players, and they are firing on all cylinders at the moment. Fresh from AB's knock and shattered world records, how can we not walk away with the trophy that's eluded us, unfairly, for so long? We've also got every other aspect of this Maxim life covered, from crazy holiday getaways, to Mark Cuban's insurmountable success, to colour matching your daily threads.

Dirk Steenekamp

MALE COVER PHOTO: John Brown OUTFIT: TM Lewin @ Edgars

FEMALE COVER PHOTO: Brian B Hayes

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quattra Audi packs all of their fireworks into their smallest package, and only 70 owners will experience the rush. by JOHN PAGE

WILDEST WEEKEND **GETAWAYS ADAM SCOTT** BRINGS THE FUNNY INSIDE DISSECTING MICHAEL JORDAN Audi S1 15 MAXIMMAG.CO.ZA

ARENA MOTORING

THE NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR

Audi's meteoric rise into world-rallying dominance during the golden era of Group B came in the hands of the S1. The rules were slack, the crashes airborne, and spectators earned the respect of their peers by painting their hands and smearing them across any car that came within hit-and-run distance.

To comply with Group B, each brand was required to build road-legal versions of the rally monsters, which is why the Audi S1 became the ultimate road car to have, bringing quattro to the public for the first time, cementing Audi's USP. Some see the latest S1 as blasphemy; others welcome its return as the most potent pocket rocket around.

A JUNIOR S3, THEN?

As the general naming convention would dictate, yes. The engine, a detuned version of the S3's 202kW output, but still a feisty 170kW, and the S1 shares the same quattro system. The difference is that the S1 only comes with a 6-speed manual lever. Time the shifts perfectly with enough rpm to send ripples across all four tyres, and the S1 will dash to 100km/h in 5.8 seconds, slightly behind the S3's time of 5.2 seconds. Strictly speaking, it's a more pumped up A1, but with a complex rear suspension and sharper steering.

IS THAT FOUR PIPES?

Yes indeed, crammed across the back bumper, just like the S3. The S1 gets larger bumpers hollowed out and recessed, ultraskinny profile

rubber, and a set of anchors that make light work of the S1's dinky size. Two-door and Sportback options are on sale (you want either in the yellow paint) with S1 exclusives such as the flat-bottomed wheel and ally pedals.

SIGN ME UP

With only 70 on sale, be ready for some cheeky secondhand prices, as the SI teeters on being one of these modern-day, iconic rides with unrelated market prices. Or, hang onto the R460 000 and check out the bigger, faster S3 (ironically, it's a car with a stronger performance association among the youth of today).

ORIGINAL S1

While rear-wheel drive cars tragically slid down mountains, Audi's quattro system came through the world's narrowest roads without a scratch. It was what we'd call, "Totally unfair!" The car also gave rise to Audi's 5-cylinder turbo engine, which, when turned up to its maximum and filled with a cocktail of explosive fuel, crackled and flamed to around 600kW. This is a car that would scare any man. Eventually, by the time the others caught up, the speeds were unsafe for drivers and spectators, and a string of fatalities shut the doors on Group B.







BMW Active Tourer

Depending on your viewpoint, BMW is either clueless about building front-wheel drive cars, or, if you include the Mini, possesses all of the trade secrets. The Active Tourer is planted around the rib-tickling Mini frame, but cloaked in BMW's refinement. There's a very small place for rear-wheel, drifty machines, and BMW has put its stamp on that with the M4 and 235i. But trying to imitate long, snaking slides in a bottomrung Beamer just looks... sad. So, the Active Tourer is how most people relate to their cars. Power comes from the end nearest to the engine, understeering long before screeching into something solid. And you and your passengers get more space, because there isn't a giant, swirling prop shaft gnashing underneath the floor mats. The car is untypically styled for space, appropriately referred to as "sheer backseat pleasure," without being kinky about it. Rear seats

slide on rails in a battle between boot space and legroom, but you'll need to wait for the rumoured 7-seater ride if you want to shuttle your indoor soccer team to events. Flick the DSC switch, bank it hard into corners, and the chassis steers with the provenance of any BMW backed by a glut of diesel and petrol engines that fare well in their new orientation. Just don't give us a front-wheel M-Car, please.

SPECS

Engine: 2.0-litre 4-cylinder turbo Power and Torque: 170kW/350Nm 0-100km/h: 6.8 seconds

Price: R440 500

Buy It For: BMW goes front-wheel drive





Mercedes S-Class Coupe

Try explaining an S-Class Coupe to your mates. This is a car built to pamper its passengers by surrounding them with leather and cushions as they marvel at DVD screens, while being massaged. It's not there to rough passengers up and crease their three-piece suits while shoving them into the back. The Coupe has sublime beauty. The car's crisp body is one swooping arc that, by comparison, leaves the regular S-Class stifled by its rear doors. We bet it's got the smoothness to get the attention of the slack-jawed valet service ahead of the Rolls' Phantom Coupe, and from there, things fall the way of the Merc. The Coupe has mindblowing equipment, cameras that can message the springs with the required stiffness, lane-guided steering, active cruise control for hands-off-wheel driving, and the smartest set of micro LEDs that can bend and throw light for night-defying brightness, without blinding oncoming or leading traffic. And it corners like nothing else, thanks to the Active Tilting feature.

Think of the way a motorbike leans into corners... the S-Class Coupe mimics that. Why? We're told it reduces G-forces on the body, allowing you to hit that dotted line with the next big deal.

SPECS

Engine: 5.5-litre V8 twin-turbo Power and Torque: 430kW/800Nm 0-100km/h: 4.1 seconds Price: R3 087 014 Buy It For: Curvaceous style





Audi RS3





You've already met Audi's S1, but even Audi will admit that that's child's play compared to the firebreathing RS3. Aggressive numbers border on the supernatural, 0-100km/h in 4.3 seconds, and a top speed of 250km/h. That's if you choose the slightly conservative electronics. If you tick the right box. Audi will rewire it for 280km/h (remember, this is all in a 4-door hatch). The source of this unlikely supercar thrasher is Audi's 2.5-litre, 5-cylinder engine, which, from a size point of view, sits neatly between its two natural rivals, the BMW M135i and Mercedes' A 45 AMG. But it's not settling for second place. because at 270kW, the RS3 is the new mega-hatch champion. Power on this sort of scale requires quattro soberness, but if you're feeling brave, there are settings to allow power to be transferred entirely to the rear

wheels. We won't believe them until we drive it ourselves, which in theory could make the RS3 very ballsy. Very BMW-ish. The two exhausts appear tame, but Audi's 5-pot barks and crackles on fuel, while the biggest set of brakes ever fitted to an A3 return it to civilised speeds. Your turn A 45 AMG... the hatch battle is turning out to be a great way to begin 2015.

SPECS

Engine: 2.5-litre 5-cylinder turbo Power and Torque: 270kW/465Nm 0-100km/h: 4.3 seconds Price: R650 000 (estimation) Buy It For: Fastest hatch... for now

LION-AIRE JORDAN

Number 23 is the only pro athlete to achieve a net worth followed by nine zeros. Here's a look at some of M.J.'s other notable numbers.



NUMBER OF GAMES IN WHICH JORDAN DID NOT SCORE IN DOUBLE DIGITS, OF 1251 GAMES

HE PLAYED.

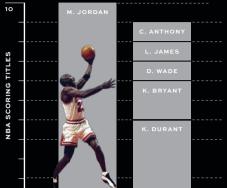


IN JORDAN'S CAREER.

POINTS SCORED IN A PLAYOFF GAME DURING THE BULLS' 1986 SERIES AGAINST THE BOSTON CELTICS (THE RECORD IS STILL UNBROKEN).

NUMBER OF SCORING TITLES WON BY JORDAN. KOBE BRYANT, DWYANE WADE, LEBRON JAMES, CARMELO ANTHONY, AND KEVIN DURANT COMBINED HAVE WON





KEVIN









ESTIMATED AMOUNT M.J. MADE IN 2013, A DECADE AFTER HIS (FINAL) RETIREMENT (ONLY FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. MADE MORE. WITH R1.2 BILLION).



FINE FOR WEARING AIR JORDANS DURING HIS ROOKIE YEAR. THE SHOES VIOLATED LEAGUE PROTOCOL, BECAUSE THE RED-AND-BLACK DESIGN DIDN'T FEATURE ANY WHITE.



FIRST-DAY SALES FOR 2014'S AIR JORDAN 10 "POWDER BLUE" RETRO SNEAKS, PERSPECTIVE ALERT: ADIDAS MADE R460 MILLION FROM DERRICK ROSE'S SIGNATURE SHOES FOR ALL OF 2012.



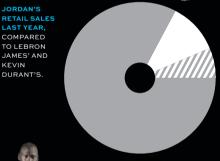




NUMBER M.J. WORE FOR ONE GAME IN 1990, WHEN SOMEONE STOLE HISTINIFORM











BRAND-ENDORSEMENT ROSTER.



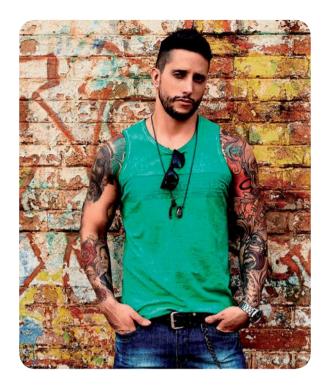


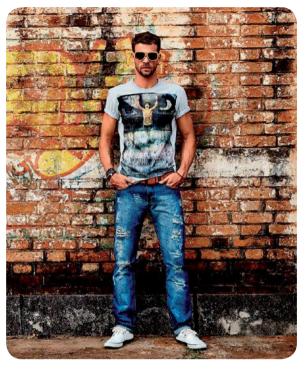
PERCENTAGE OF THE CHARLOTTE HORNETS M.J. OWNS, CURRENTLY HIS LARGEST ASSET.

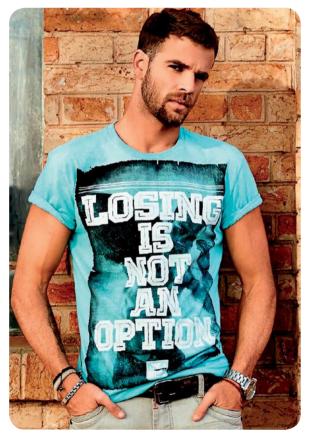




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GONZO GETAWAYS

Ready to skip town for an intensely pleasurable long weekend? Consider these five epic excursions to recharge, and refresh. by STEVE GARBARINO

BEACHCOMB LIKE BRANDO

Tetiaroa, French Polynesia

This remote atoll in the South Pacific served as Marlon Brando's private escape/ love nest for four decades. Now, it's the ultimate tropical paradise in which to channel your inner Colonel Kurtz. Brando (who died in 2004) made plenty of native conquests here (including his third wife), and THE BRANDO resort, which opened last year, captures his legendarily hedonistic ethos. On TETIAROA, a series of pristine islets engulfing a gorgeous, turquoise lagoon, you and your posse can take over its secluded, three-bedroom villa (about R110 700 a night). Eat just-hooked fish at Michelin-starred chef Guy Martin's LES MUTINÉS. Liquor up at BOB'S BAR on the beach, or at your private poolside. And if you crave eye-popping, island idylls, take an exotic-bird-watching trip, snorkel pink coral, or night-view migrating sea turtles laying eggs on the beach.

GO SHARK FISHING IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

Islamorada, Florida, USA

This highly touted "sport fishing capital" is renowned for its offshore, tournamentcontending makos, blacktips, hammerheads, bulls, and hard-fighting threshers. Make your way to one of the veteran shark-angling ports, such as the SEA HORSE, or BUD N' MARY'S; both opt for a circle-hook catch-and-release, while the latter provides some deceptively comfy houseboat rental accommodations docked to their shove-off points. And if you'd like to grab a luxury hut of your own, upscale the itinerary at the MOORINGS VILLAGE, a picturesque cove. There are plenty of sharks here just waiting for your hooks to be landed, measured, and Instagrammed to those poor saps on land.



GET OUTTA TOWN!

(Clockwise from left)
The hopping pool scene at the Ace Hotel in Palm
Springs; the Safari Surf School in Costa Rica; a yoga beauty you might find getting bendy on the

beach at Tulum's Bikini Bootcamp; a Dirty Old Bob cocktail at Bob's Bar, the Brando resort

TEE OFF, RAT PACK-STYLE

Palm Springs and Palm Desert, California, USA Rather than reenacting The Hangover movies along with everyone else in Las Vegas, ring-a-ding-ding away the weekend amidst the more intimate desert decadence of Palm Springs, the literal crossroads of Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope. It's proudly old school, and home to more than 100 primo golf courses (plenty of them public). During winter, the balmy weather's never better for bogeying where Dino, Bing, and Sonny Bono all swung through to live a little. Hit enduring 19th holes like TOUCAN'S TIKI LOUNGE, and the classic MELVYN'S, and drop the clubs at such time-bubble lodgings as the MOVIE COLONY HOTEL, and the PARKER PALM SPRINGS. Or, if you'd prefer to chat up cuties, swagger into the

ACE HOTEL's retrofitted AMIGO ROOM, the perfect place to kick up your own desert storm.

GET FLEXIBLE WITH YOGA BABES

Tulum, Quintana Roo, North America

Study your Kundalini for Dummies on the plane to Cancún, and then get ready for the two-hour road trip to Tulum, a secluded, yoga-happy sanctuary on the Riviera Maya. Your goal is to get touchyfeely with the beautiful creatures who migrate to its incredible beaches to stay perfectly tanned and toned (get ready to assume the position... that you actually care about yoga). Frisky dog that you are, you'll outlast all who are piled in the sweat lodge, and win the naked mud bake on the beach. Not everything here is about healthy living. These yoga girls drink, you know (they earned it). Check in to one of the more primitive digs like the fairly priced COCO TULUM (starting at around R1 600 a night), and luxury-hotel barhop with your flexible, new friends. Or, upgrade to CASA DE LAS OLAS, or the beachfront eco-resort, AMANSALA. Check scheduling for the latter's fabled BIKINI BOOTCAMP, and man up by showing you're not afraid to be in touch with your feminine side.

SURF 'N' TURF IN COSTA RICA

Nosara, Costa Rica, Central America

Endless summer, indeed. In this go-native surfing stronghold, favoured by enthusiasts of all wave-riding levels, winter's dry season (November through April) offers warm waters, high swells, and long point breaks. If you're a novice, get your feet wet at the SAFARI SURF SCHOOL in nearby Playa Guiones, where less-intimidating waves roll right up to the beach. Besides the surf, there's white-water rafting, zip-lining down volcanoes, rainforest hiking, and cliff diving. In Nosara, hit local grist station CASA TUCAN (for mouthwatering plates of traditional casado), or fuel up at the bar at the KAYA SOL SURF HOTEL. Once you've surfed or swilled yourself to exhaustion, recharge at the eco-savvy HARMONY HOTEL, which boasts a Healing Centre spa, spacious 1970s-style bungalows, and ample hammocks in which to happily laze around the gorgeous, freshwater pool. ■

MAKE A CHOCOBUTTER CUPCAKE

A melt-in-your-mouth cupcake, perfect for almost any occasion.



Andene
Thomson is a
23-year-old,
smoking-hot
food guru, and
she's also a
USN Fitness
Model and
Ambassador.
Find her at
healthygirl.co.za



INGREDIENTS

CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE:

- -1 large egg white
- -1 tbsp. raw cacao powder
- -1/2 tbsp. raw cacao chips
- -1/4 mashed banana
- -1 tsp. baking powder
- -1ml sweetener of your choice

PEANUT BUTTER FILLING:

- -1 heaped tbsp. no added salt/sugar peanut butter
- -1 tbsp. vanilla whey protein powder

METHOD

- 1. Whisk all of the chocolate cupcake ingredients together until they are smooth.
- 2. Spray a microwave-safe mug with a non-stick cooking spray.
- 3. Place the mixture in the mug, and cook it in the microwave for 1-1.5 minutes.
- 4.Turn the mug upside down, so that the cupcake falls out, allowing it to cool down on a cooling rack for 5 minutes.
- 5.Heat the peanut butter in the microwave for 30 seconds.

- 6. Add vanilla whey protein powder to the peanut butter, mixing it well.
- 7. Once the chocolate cupcake has cooled down, cut it in half and place the protein peanut butter in between the two layers.
- 8. Lastly, top the cupcake with the remaining protein peanut butter sauce.



SOUR AND GLORY

Rough whisky chased with salty gherkin juice has become a bona fide global phenomenon.

by JOSHUA M. BERNSTEIN

Thanks to its palatability and simplicity (a jar of gherkins, a jigger of whisky, and you're in business), the combination of gherkin juice and whisky has graduated from novelty to ubiquity, a secret handshake for off-duty bartenders, and clued-in drinkers alike. Since its birth, this combo has become a boozy-savoury sensation, and today, you can find it basically everywhere.

REACH FOR ROTGUT

Gherkins are perfect with most whiskies, but since the assertive brine will obliterate nuances, skip expensive spirits and bend your knees for the bottom shelf. Black Label is an excellent option (also, some bartenders are getting uppity by using Jack Daniel's, and, most commonly, Jameson).

THE FIFTH TASTE

On your taste buds, the tango of booze and brine creates a pleasing flavour of umami, our super-savoury fifth taste. This taste is also found in cured meats, and soy sauce.

TOAST TO YOUR HEALTH

Next time a buzzkill questions why you downed six gherkin and whisky combos, tell him it's doctor's orders, because a recent study found that gherkin juice can alleviate leg cramps.

GET JUICED

When shopping for brine, "You don't want liquid that looks like it's radioactive," says veteran bartender John Roberts, who recommends a "good-quality brine that's garlicky and, preferably, spicy."

POLE POSITION

Hung over? Perhaps the problem is too much whisky, not enough brine. In Poland, gherkin juice is a classic morning-after cure. And it may not just be folklore, because vinegar's acetic acid helps ravaged bodies retain fluid and, like a sponge, absorb the brine's beneficial electrolytes and salt.

PICKLE POWER

Have some leftover brine from your last concoction? The salty ambrosia's acidity makes it ideal for cleaning copper pans, tenderising steaks, and even killing weeds. Seriously!





Doors Open

1PM

Show Starts 4PM

28 MARCH 2015

HOOTERS







HOTEL CASINO CONVENTION RESORT









CLOAK AND DATA

Encrypt emails, avoid social-media stalkers, and keep texts confidential. These new apps make it easy to maintain your digital privacy.

by CORINNE IOZZIO

Say there's this woman. You went out twice (or was it three times?). Maybe you're just not feeling it, or perhaps she has an unsettling fondness for obscure emojis. Whatever the case, things didn't work out. But she's already deep in your digital business, thumbs-upping your Facebook statuses, sending you Snapchats of her parents' engagement photos. This used to be unavoidable. But breathe easy, fellas... there's a new crop of privacy apps built for the sole purpose of keeping snooping exes, and serial oversharers at bay. Here are four downloadable ways to watch your back.



PROTECT YOUR MESSAGES

The last thing you want is for your outgoing correspondence, be it topless, ex-girlfriend selfies, or important business details, to be stolen. Send texts through Cyber Dust (free, iOS and Android). The app automatically deletes messages roughly 20 to 45 seconds after they're read, depending on your operating system. Even better, it lets you retract messages and, if you're an Android user, block recipients from taking screenshots to use as blackmail.



GIVE OUT FAKE DIGITS

Stop giving random women (and Nigerian princes) your real number. Instead, use Hushed (free, iOS and Android) to generate disposable, but still working, digits. They'll ring on your own phone, but you can ditch them whenever you like. The first number is free and comes with five days, 10 minutes of talktime, and 10 text messages.



CLOAK

CUT THE DIGITAL TIES

How do you avoid that special someone you don't want to talk to, let alone see, ever again? Our favourite option is Cloak (free, iOS). The app syncs with your Facebook. Twitter, Foursquare, and Instagram contacts, plotting each person's current location on a map. Flag those vou'd prefer to avoid, and the app pings you when they're nearby, so you can plan your escape accordingly.



SIGNAL

ENCRYPT YOURSELF

As government officials and madams know, phone calls are eerily susceptible to interception, too. Cellular providers are required to let Big Brother tap in at a moment's notice, and a simple hack on a secondhand phone can do the same. Signal (free, iOS and Android) lets you make calls over an encrypted connection that snoops can't penetrate. So, even if she's crazy enough to put a P.I. on your digital tail, vour secrets will remain safe.



AT CINEMAS 13 MARCH



MODUS

THE STYLISH MAN

GETTING SNEAKY

The office dress code has loosened up, but that doesn't mean you should stroll into work with scuffed Chucks on your feet. Highend high-tops fall into that sweet spot of being suitworthy and perfect with a pair of jeans.

styling by **CHANTELLE MIRANDA** photographs by **RICHARD COOK**



PHILIPP PERL



1 MOSCHINO

High-tops with gold, Moschino buckles in black leather.

R7 950; Castelo

2 ZARA

Sleek, leather high-tops. R800; Zara

3 MOSCHINO

Black, leather and mesh lace-ups. R7 950; Castelo 4 TED BAKER

Clean, black and navy sneakers. R1 700; Ted Baker

5 CONVERSE X JOHN VARVATOS

Edgy high-tops in embossed leather. R2 700; Stuttafords



For all your business wardrobe solutions visit T.M. Lewin, renowned for its superior quality shirts, tailoring & accessories.



Suits from 4999 3 Shirts from 1499

2 Ties from 799

Official formal wear sponsor to Cricket SA and Proteas











SMOOTH OPERATORS

Don't let the harsh weather suck you dry. These skin-quenching moisturisers will help you stay flake-free all season.





BILLY JEALOUSY COMBAT LINES FACIAL MOISTURISER

The goal is to have minimal pore clogging, while moisturising your skin. This new product will add lustre to your mug with face-friendly elements like Japanese green tea and vitamin E, formulated into a time-release moisturiser.



KIEHL'S SUPERBLY RESTORATIVE BODY LOTION WITH ARGAN OIL

With argan oil, this product is light and tone enhancing. Just remember, it rubs the lotion on its skin, or it gets the hose again!

DOVE MEN+CARE CLEAN COMFORT

Sorry, but that tightness in your skin after washing isn't you inexplicably shedding baby fat... it's actually dehydration.
Stay limber and, of course, clean, with this ultra-hydrating body wash.



L'OCCITANE SHEA BUTTER FOOT CREAM

Our most abused appendages deserve some lovin', too. Treat your dogs to this coconut-oil-based moisturiser to keep them soft, smooth, and free of funk.



AMERICAN CREW DAILY CONDITIONER

Help prevent dandruff with this peppermintinfused conditioner, a game changer for guys with curly, coarse, and chronically dry hair.



BILLY JEALOUSY GOLDEN GLOVES HAND CREAM

Approved by golfers, chefs, carpenters, and other dudes who rely on their hands, this hand cream is a potent remedy for dry and damaged mitts. And, better yet, it doesn't leave any greasy residue (a.k.a. "evidence").

SKIN DEFENCE A QUICK ONE ON SKINCARE.

HYDRATE!

Staying hydrated is crucial. If you're replacing water with sugary drinks, it's going to show in your skin. You've been warned.

BLITZ YOUR PORES

When you're applying a facial moisturiser, don't pull or tug at the skin. Work it up into your pores and against gravity.

SPIKE HELMET HEAD

If you wash your hair every day, use conditioner every day. It's the only way to keep your hair soft.



AVERAGE THINKS LIBIDO IS A BOY BAND FROM MEXICO

BEAT AVERAGE

CONVENIENTLY COMBINES NUTRIENTS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT MEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH AND VIRILITY

Clinically studied formula to supplement key nutrients that may be missing in your daily diet*.

Vitamin D-3 for immune support and B-vitamins for cardiovascular health and energy production*.

OMEGA-3 fatty acids, EPA and DHA necessary for normal blood pressure.



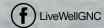


















- 1 Day-Date II in gold, Rolex; arthurkaplan.co.za
- ② Blue, woolly-mammothtooth money clip, Monique Péan; moniquepean.com
- 3 Altiplano cufflinks in 18kt rose gold, Piaget; *ejewels.co.za*
- 4 Ligne 2 Meteorite lighter, S.T. Dupont; st-dupont.com
- **5** Cole aviators in rose gold, Tom Ford; smartbuyglasses.co.za
- Frontier ring,David Yurman;davidyurman.com
- Serving tray (price upon request), Bottega Veneta; bottegaveneta.com/za



PREVIOUS PAGE

Suit, Fabiani R6 000. Shirt, Zara R460.Shoes, Zara R1 100. Socks, Happy Socks at Stuttafords R140. Wallet, Ted Baker R500. Belt, Fabiani R600. Watch, Danish Design R3 400.

RIGHT

Jacket, Zara R2 000. Pants, Zara R1 100. T-shirt, Zara R200. Pocket square, Fabiani R400. Loafers, Europa Art R1 390. Satchel, Ted Baker R3 000.



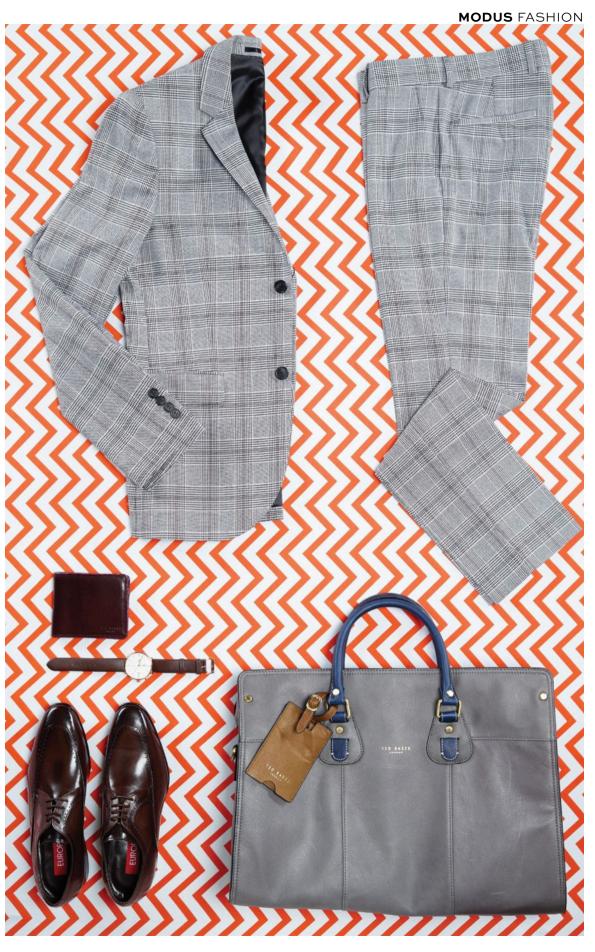


PREVIOUS PAGE

Jacket, Zara R1 700. Shirt, Zara R600. Waistcoat, Zara R1 000. Bow tie, Zara R260. Boots, Ted Baker R1 900. Wallet, Ted Baker R700. Belt, Fabiani R600. Jeans, Rock Revival R4 000.

RIGHT

Jacket, Topman R2 199. Pants, Topman R1 000. Wallet, Ted Baker R700. Watch, Danish Design R3 500. Shoes, Europa Art R2 690. Bag, Ted Baker R4 000.



4

MAN WITH A PLAN

ΤV

REAL HOUSEWIVES
STAR JOANNA
KRUPA MAY
HAVE LEFT MIAMI,
BUT SHE'S
STILL BRINGING
THE HEAT.

by ADAM LINEHAN

THIS PAGE
Coat, Max Mara:
Lingerie, Kiki
de Montparnasse.
Necklace,
Zoë Chicco.

NEXT PAGE

Lingerie, Carine Gilson. Stocking Wolford. Shoes, Christian Louboutin. Necklace, Zoë Chicco. Ring, Blanca Monrós Gómez. Bracelet, Jennifer Fisher. You've made your mark as a model and actress, but you might be best known as the biggest star of *The Real Housewives of Miami* for the past two years. So, why did you decide not to do another season? It was getting to where I didn't have any friends on the show, and I felt like some of the girls thought, "Oh, my God! This is my five minutes of fame, I need to bring the drama. I need to be a vicious human being so the spotlight will be on me." I joined the show being this happy person with a career, which made me a bit of a target.

You had a nasty, well-publicised feud last year with *Housewives of Beverly Hills* star Brandi Glanville. Did she actually accuse you of having, umm, bad personal hygiene?

It got out of hand, and there was just way too much below-the-belt stuff, literally. With Brandi, I got sucker punched. I'd never met her before I was on the show, but we'd send each other compliments on Twitter, so I thought we were cool. And when we finally did meet, she was totally a cold bitch. Then all of that drama started, and I don't think she was expecting me to fight back (laughs).

Did you like watching the show?

It was tough! When you film, you're living that bad moment, but you get over it, make peace, and move on. But then, when the show airs, we'd have to comment about it on our blog, what we were thinking in that particular crappy moment. So, some of the girls would get offended and be like, "Oh, my God! I thought you were over it!" It was an endless circle, I'd be living those situations three times, because of that.

Your husband isn't exactly the pencil-thin type. Are you attracted to brawny guys?

I think guys need to take care of themselves. But when they're really bulky and think about nothing but working out? Total turnoff! My husband used to be really skinny when he was a model and had to fit high-fashion measurements. Now, he works out, but he's not obsessed. I respect that.

Before marriage, did you date any big celebs? Or, better yet, turn one down? Actually, I did (laughs). I definitely turned down a pretty huge one. I don't want to say who, because he's married, and it's just



going to turn into an enormous drama. But, yeah, his manager called my manager and asked if I'd go to dinner with him. I was like, "Oh, totally not my type." Then, a couple of years later, he called again and I said, "No, no, no." I shut him down completely.

Romain once claimed that you wanted a "sexual clause" in your marriage prenup. Was that a joke?

Well, it was a joke, but it was very close to reality. We've always had an issue with that subject, because I've been the more sexual one in the relationship. So, I kind of joked to him, like, "If we're going to get married, then I'm putting that clause in so I can get it on a regular basis."

Any advice for other couples wrestling with the same problem?

If a girl wants more sex from her man, and she sees that the guy is having a lot of stress, then plan a romantic getaway so he can really unwind and relax for a weekend. Spur-of-the-moment things are the best. And dressing up or role-playing definitely can make things way more interesting and exciting.

Speaking of role-play, what is your dream movie role?

Being a Bond girl! That's my goal. I've actually been dreaming about that ever since I got into this business.

You've been criticised for flaunting too much flesh in public. What do you have to say to your critics?

If my man wants me to walk around being sexy all the time, why not? As long as it's not trashy, or hurting somebody, or disrespecting anyone, then why not? I, for one, appreciate beautiful women. When I see them walking down the street, I want to give them a high five. ■





JARRA SPORT **PULSE WIRELESS**

These buds are impervious to sweat, come packed with powerful Dolby sound, and read your pulse. Tiny light sensors detect your heart rate via the blood flow in your ears. The buds are comfortable and accurate, and an app chronicles your stats, tailors programmes to fit your needs, and plays nice with fitness apps like RunKeeper. R2 399:



LIFFREAM HELMET

It's always been tricky figuring out just how hard you're really working out on a bike. Using tech developed for fighter pilots and astronauts, the LifeBeam helmet features optical and motion sensors that, along with a suite of processors, track your vitals. As you pedal, it logs your beats per minute and calories burnt, sending them both to ANT+ and Bluetooth devices.

R5 014: wantitall.co.za



MIO LINK

Already have a go-to fitness device? The Mio LINK is the ideal companion. A faceless, one-button wristband, it tracks your pulse, displaying heart rate zones via an array of flashing lights, transmitting the data to Bluetooth Smart (4.0), as well as ANT+ compatible cycling computers and watches. It's an accurate and incredibly simple way to replace an existing chest strap.

R1 140; mioglobal.com



TOMTOM **RUNNER CARDIO**

Running watches are often too smart for their own good, with too many tiny buttons here, too many menu options there. The Runner Cardio offers serious metrics, but is a master class in simplicity. The GPS watch, which tracks pulse, pace, distance, and calories burned, has a streamlined interface and brightly lit screen that's easy to read, even when you're running at a full sprint.

R3 799; capeunionmart. co za



ADIDAS MICOACH **FIT SMART**

Sure, the Fit Smart may look like just another fitness cuff, but there are plenty of "smarts" under the hood. Like its rivals, it counts steps, your stride rate, distance, and pace, but it also features a built-in sensor that reads your heart rate. It optimises that info to help fit it into your personal goals; all the data is sent to Adidas' Train and Run app, which offers hundreds of training plans.

R3 069: wantitall.co.za



OM FITNESS SHORT-SLEEVED

Not into fitness bands? Slip on this shirt. Woven into its fabric is a suite of sensors that record a neurotic amount of data. respiration rate/ volume. movement (including steps and cadence), and beats per minute. It even keeps an eye on your musclecontraction intensity. And don't worry about perspiration, because the shirt can be washed with the rest of your gear. R2 300; omsignal.com

takealot.com

Don't waste your time,

don't waste your money.











WORKOUT

THICKNESS SUPERSET

Barbell Curls: 10, 10, 8, 8, 6, 6, 4, 4 Straight-Bar Push-Downs: 10, 10, 8, 8, 6, 6, 4, 4

UNIQUE EXERCISES: 3 SETS

Rolling Band Triceps Presses: 15 reps Seated Barbell Curls: 15 reps

CORE: 4 SETS

Back Extensions: 25 reps Toes-To-Bar: 10 reps

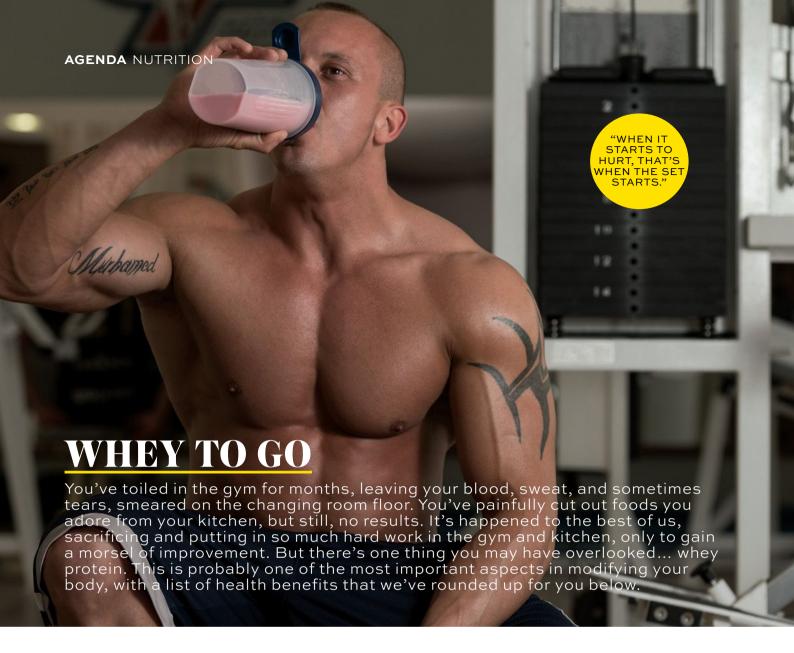
PUMP QUAD-SET: 5 SETS Bench Dips: 30 reps

Incline Dumbbell Curls: 8 reps, twist for 5 seconds, 4 more reps
Band Push-Downs: 30 reps
EZ-Bar Curls (Wide-Grip): 28 method

POLISH TRI-SET: 3 SETS

Machine Preacher Curls: 20 reps Rope Push-Downs: 20 reps Wrist Curls: 20 reps





GET BIGGER; GET STRONGER

Strength gains are important, because you need to be as strong as you look, especially as your workout routines become more intense. A study conducted by researchers at a university took 19 men who were involved in resistance training for 10 weeks. The researchers gave a select few 14 grams of whey and casein protein, combined with 6 grams of amino acids, giving the rest of the guys a 20-gram placebo. Naturally, the guys who chugged down whey gained a truckload of mass, and muscle strength. So, have whey one hour before, and after a workout.

DON'T STRESS

Dedicating a Friday to binge drinking with your mates isn't the way to combat stress; in fact, it's detrimental to your health. Rather dissolve stress by adding some whey to your diet, because a study showed that people who consume whey protein are less likely to become

depressed, and are happier in general, due to whey's effects on the brain's serotonin levels.

IMMUNE BOOST

Leading a healthy, active lifestyle has its obvious pros, but it also has some cons you may not know of. Studies showed that very active males have reduced glutathione levels, and this affects the nervous, gastrointestinal, and immune systems. However, by taking whey protein, you lose less glutathione.

FIGHT THE HUNGER

Fighting hunger's unwarranted call is vital, because unnecessary snacking can set you back a number of gym sessions. So, make sure that you get enough whey in, because it reduces ghrelin (that vindictive hormone that lies to your brain, telling it you're "hungry") up to four hours after you've eaten. And if you do get the urge to chew on something, opt for a protein shake instead.

DESTROY CANCER

Cancer's wreaked havoc for centuries, but whey protein is among the arsenal that can be used to destroy it. Besides getting regular checks for cancer, you should take regular amounts of whey, because it helps in combating the vicious disease, especially cancer of the colon, and prostrate.

DROP FAT; GAIN MUSCLE

So, the first step is simple, reducing your calorie intake in order to drop excess fat. Where whey protein comes in is by being the catalyst in the process, helping you lose a greater amount of fat, faster (plus, whey will also preserve the muscles you hustled for). By taking whey, you lose 6.1% more fat than if you took any old isocaloric beverage.







This is the purest form of whey, with a rich source of amino acids for recovery, packed with over 4 grams of glutamine and glutamic acid.



BIOGEN'S ISO-WHEY PREMIUM

With 3 different types of whey protein, this formula is made up of high levels of BCAAs, preventing muscle tissue breakdown.



GNC'S AMP GOLD 100% WHEY PROTEIN

This is a catalyst for protein synthesis and muscle growth, providing your body with pure, clean protein to fuel your muscles.



OLIMP WHEY PROTEIN COMPLEX 100%

Offering a high concentration in protein, this formula, perfect for athletes, will give your body the energy it demands during intense workouts.

PRO TIP TAKE YOUR WHEY BEFORE TRAINING, SO THAT BY THE TIME YOUR SESSION IS OVER, THE WHEY IS ALREADY IN EFFECT, RESULTING IN A QUICK RECOVERY.



The Battlefield series has always been lauded for its fantastic multiplayer experience, offering players a huge playground to wage war against each other in one of the best-looking first-person shooters on the market. But with Battlefield Hardline, EA has decided to go in a new direction... welcome to the dark underbelly of Miami.

by ANDRE COETZER

TV COPS DONE RIGHT

So, why is *Hardline* different from the previous *Battlefield* entries? Think of your favourite crime shows, and you will picture *Hardline*. It's a crime-drama-filled single-player experience that takes its cues from the best cop shows around. You play as officer Nick Mendoza, a newly appointed detective who, along with his partner, veteran detective Khai Minh Dao, goes deep into the darkest cesspools of Miami in order to follow a drug supply chain from the streets, to the source. Treated as various episodes, each case sees the two detectives realise that power and corruption can affect both sides of the law. Each case feels exactly like an episode out of *The Wire*, and the story is as gripping as anything on TV.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

As with most games these days, *Hardline* features tough moral choices for the players to make. Do you shoot to kill, or try to apprehend the felon in order to shake him down for information? And how far will you go to extract the information? It's a trick we've seen in numerous games, but *Hardline* does deliver some seriously tough moral choices, ones that actually affect the game going forward. Of course, *Hardline* still retains the fantastic gunplay that the *Battlefield* series has become famous for. The guns all pack a punch, and the gameplay can go from a quiet moment, to hectic, fast-paced action in a matter of seconds. As a single-player experience, it's a thrill ride right up until the conclusion. But it would not be a *Battlefield* game without an excellent multiplayer section, now would it?

HEIST OR BUST

The multiplayer side of things is simple, you're either on the side of the law, or you are the wanted criminal. As with previous *Battlefield* games, teamwork is essential in order to succeed. From planning the perfect heist with your criminal buddies, to carefully tracking the criminal element for that big-time bust, *Hardline*'s multiplayer does not disappoint. It retains everything that made the *Battlefield* series the go-to online multiplayer shooter, and wraps it into the beautiful and dark underworld of the Miami crime scene.

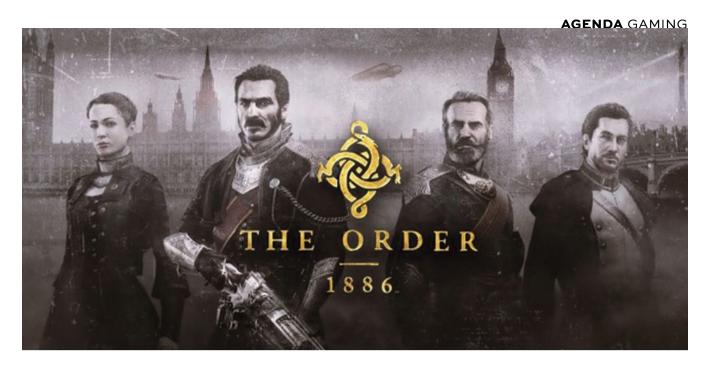
GOOD COP / BAD COP

Battlefield Hardline is quite a departure from the regular Battlefield series, but it's a change we welcome. Fears of Battlefield losing its identity can be put to rest, because Hardline delivers the same exciting elements one would expect, but it's set within a gripping tale of good versus evil. If you've always wanted to star in your very own episode of The Shield, or The Wire, then Battlefield Hardline is a dream come true.









The PlayStation 4 has been a massive success, featuring amazing graphics and wonderful games. However, critics may bring up the fact that it lacks that *killer* exclusive. And now, *The Order: 1886*, a must-have, PS4 exclusive, has arrived. But has it lived up to its lofty expectations?

KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

In an alternate history, Victorian-era London has been transformed into a technologically advanced city, where myth and technology coexist. The player takes on the role of Sir Galahad, a hardened member of an elite order of knights engaging in a centuries-old war between humans and the genetically different "half breeds." The Knights of the Order have sworn to protect humanity against all evil. However, a new threat has emerged, a rebellion that has declared all-out war against the Order and the government oppression it represents. Sir Galahad and the Order now face a threat that will destroy everything they have sworn to protect.



STUNNING STEAMPUNK

The Order: 1886 is by far the best-looking game ever made. The facial animations and advanced movements on the characters are the best, and you will catch yourself thinking, "Is this real?" on many occasions. The gameplay is a mixture of Gears of War, and the stealth sections of Uncharted; these are both fantastic games in their own right. An issue people may raise is that it doesn't really bring anything new to the table. But when it does everything so well, it really doesn't matter. The Victorian-London setting is depressingly beautiful, adding so much to the overall gloomy experience of The Order: 1886. The half breeds are a menacing foe, moving and killing with precision, challenging the player on every level.



GLORIOUS GUNS

Living in the Industrial Revolution, the Order is armed with some seriously dangerous guns, and other deadly weapons. Fire bolts of electricity to take out long-range targets, or let fire rain down on your enemies by dousing them with a cloud of flammable dust, igniting it with a superheated flare. The fascinating thing about the weapons in *The Order: 1886* is that they are all based on plausible science and technology. So, even though it's set in an alternate place, the weapons feel completely believable. The Knights are also armed with technology way ahead of their time, from wireless communication devices, to powerful monoculars that help the Knights see across great distances.



THE KILLER EXCLUSIVE

The PS4 finally has its must-own exclusive. From incredibly detailed graphics, to the intense gunplay, *The Order: 1886* is a fantastic franchise for Sony, and a must-play for all fans of the *Uncharted / Gears of War games*. Although it offers nothing new to the genre, *The Order: 1886* is a spectacular game that will have you hooked from the beginning, right until the end.



AGENDA GAMING



The original Resident Evil: Revelations started its life as a fantastic Nintendo 3DS title, capturing the series' now infamous atmosphere, and terrifying gameplay. It was later ported to the 360 and PS3, and although the great gameplay still remained, the graphics were a little below par. However, the sequel has been built specifically for the more powerful consoles, and it looks great.

RETURN TO RACCOON CITY

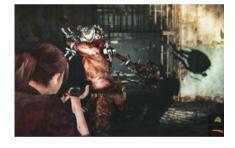
The beginning of the *Resident Evil: Revelations 2* tale sees fan-favourite Claire Redfield make a dramatic return to the horrors that haunted her in the past. As a survivor of the Raccoon City incident (depicted in the previous *Resident Evil* games), Claire now works for the anti-bioterrorism organisation TerraSave. Moira Burton, the new recruit and daughter of *Resident Evil* legend Barry Burton, is attending her welcome party when an unknown armed force storms the office. Claire and Moira are knocked unconscious, awakening to find themselves in a dark and abandoned detention facility. Working together, they must find out who took them.

BRAINS... BRAINS...

What would a *Resident Evil* game be without zombies? The classic stumbling, brain-dead zombie has been replaced by a bigger and more dangerous threat... the "Afflicted." This is a faster, more intelligent zombie that can now actually pick up and use weapons against the player. Combating the new threat is the new assistive co-op play, in which players will need to switch between the two characters in order to overcome the nightmares in either the single-player mode (with an AI partner), or the offline co-op.

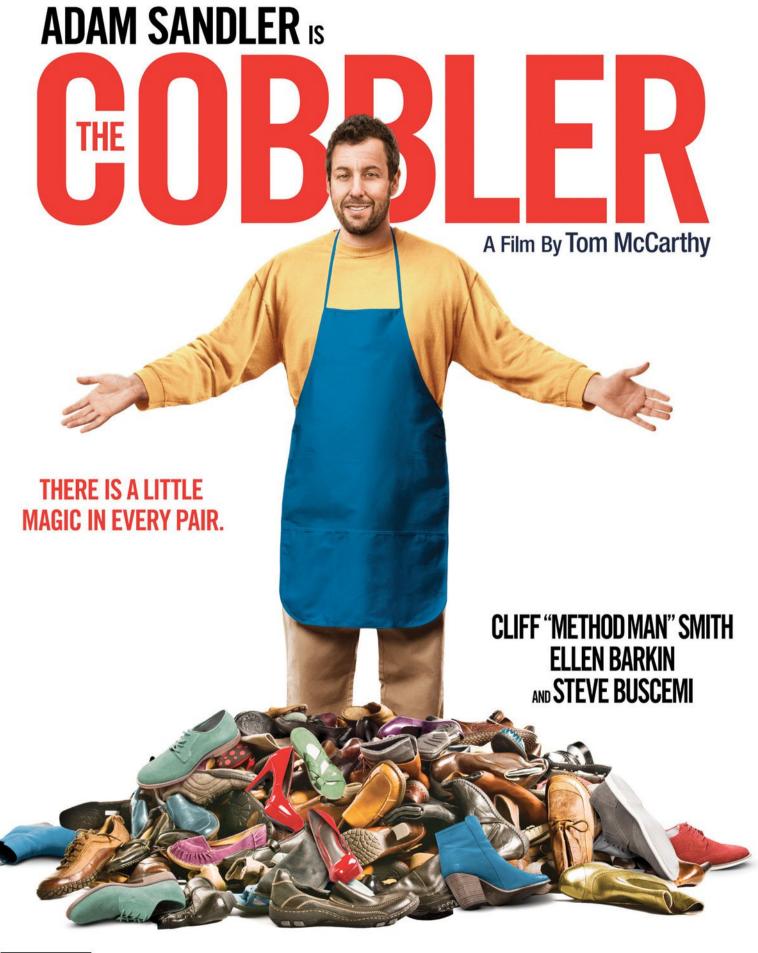
EPISODIC HORROR

The survival horror sequel will be released digitally in a weekly episodic format. However, Capcom will release a boxed version of *Revelations 2* that will feature all four episodes, the bonus episodes, Hunk, Albert Wesker for Raid Mode, and a Raid Mode Throwback Stage Pack, featuring four stages from recent *Resident Evil* titles. *Revelations 2* might not be a brand new *Resident Evil* game, but it brings all of the classic elements with it, covered in a shiny, new coat of paint.











IN CINEMAS 13 MARCH



NIGHTCRAWLER

These days, character-driven movies are few and far between, with bloated, Hollywood special effects, or dumbed-down comedies ruling the box office. But every now and again, an ingenious, well-crafted piece of cinema manages to appear and blow our socks off. Nightcrawler is one of those movies, a smart and engaging film powered by an incredible performance from Jake Gyllenhaal, delivering an intense experience that cuts close to the bone.

by **ANDRE COETZER**

IF IT BLEEDS, IT LEADS

Lou Bloom (Jake Gyllenhaal) is an ambitious, yet down-and-out, petty thief who is desperate to further himself. He accidently falls into the life of "nightcrawling" (videographers chasing down accidents, murders, etc. to get footage they can sell to news outlets). Although he struggles in the beginning, Lou eventually realises that he has a knack of tracking down newsworthy footage. So, he sets out to become the leading nightcrawler, but he eventually takes it too far. Competing against his rival and fellow nightcrawler Joe Loder (Bill Paxton), Lou will stop at nothing to get the perfect shot, and rise to the top.

CREEPY CRAWLY

Gyllenhaal's performance as the likeable, yet unstable sociopath Lou Bloom takes centre stage, a masterful interpretation of a driven individual who will do and say anything to further his own needs. Lou's mesmerising cheerfulness is scarier than rage, because as with Robert De Niro's Travis Bickle in Taxi Driver, there is an unmistakable mania lurking around the edges, if not closer. Gyllenhaal is backed up by wonderful performances from his co-stars, from the bumbling, yet money hungry assistant Rick (Riz Ahmed), to the desperate-for-ratings news director Nina (Rene Russo). It's a clever and satirical look at the cutthroat nature of people trying to reach the top.

VIEWER DISCRECTION

Nightcrawler is a fantastic movie, a dark comedy slash thriller wrapped in the satirical elements of media and moral ethics. It reveals the dark underbelly of night-time Los Angeles, offering a disturbing look at the lengths people will go to in order to reach the top. If you liked Taxi Driver, American Psycho, or Drive, then this movie is a must-see.























THEORDER

1886

IN STORES 20TH FEBRUARY 2015

DISCOVER HISTORY'S DARKEST SECRET

ZA.PLAYSTATION.COM





TOP 5:

INSPIRATIONAL

BOOKS

With the post-holiday blues still looming, we all need a bit of extra motivation to kick-start 2015. So, let's blast those blues away with *Maxim*'s top 5 inspirational books to get you charged and motivated for the year ahead.



1.STUMBLING ON HAPPINESS, DANIEL GILBERT

A hilarious, yet insightful look at a human being's imagination, and why visualising our future can be tricky. Daniel Gilbert, a prominent Harvard psychologist, based this book on scientific research aimed at proving that as human beings, we know very little about the individuals we're about to become.

2. ADULTING, KELLY WILLIAMS BROWN

It's no secret that we're all iust rebellious teenagers trapped in adult bodies, and in Adultina, Kelly Williams Brown aims to teach us that it's okay to fool around and have fun, even if you're in your mid-30s. Based on her incredibly popular blog, where she teaches people how to become adults in just 468 easy steps, Brown makes it clear that it's cool to still be young at heart.

3. LEGACY: 15 LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP, JAMES KERR

They might be our biggest rivals on the rugby field, but there is no denying that the All Blacks are the most consistently successful sports team in the world. Best-selling author James Kerr goes deep into the heart of the legendary rugby team, revealing 15 powerful and practical lessons for leadership and business. From creating a business legacy, to handling pressure, this book will most certainly inspire you.

4. THINKERTOYS: A HANDBOOK OF BUSINESS CREATIVITY, MICHAEL MICHALKO

Every great idea seems like the most obvious thing in the world, but why weren't you the one to think of it first? In the groundbreaking book, Thinkertoys, creativity expert Michael Michalko reveals life-changing tools that will help you think like a genius. Michalko's techniques show you how to look at the same information as everyone else, and see something different.

5. WOMEN, CHARLES BUKOWSKI

Not an inspirational book as such, but more a novel by one of the greatest authors ever Bukowski is known for his humour and gritty, dark honesty. Women sees unrepentant alcoholic Henry Chinaski, a once down-and-out slacker, suddenly transformed into a rock star overnight. The book deals with the sudden rise to fame, and how auickly a once manageable, yet boring life can spiral out of control once a bit of fame enters the fray.



EMPORIUM

WHAT MEN WANT



SIGHT SEER

A rear-mounted camera sends a live, 180-degree feed, eliminating blind spots, and the need for a rearview mirror.

TINT CONDITION

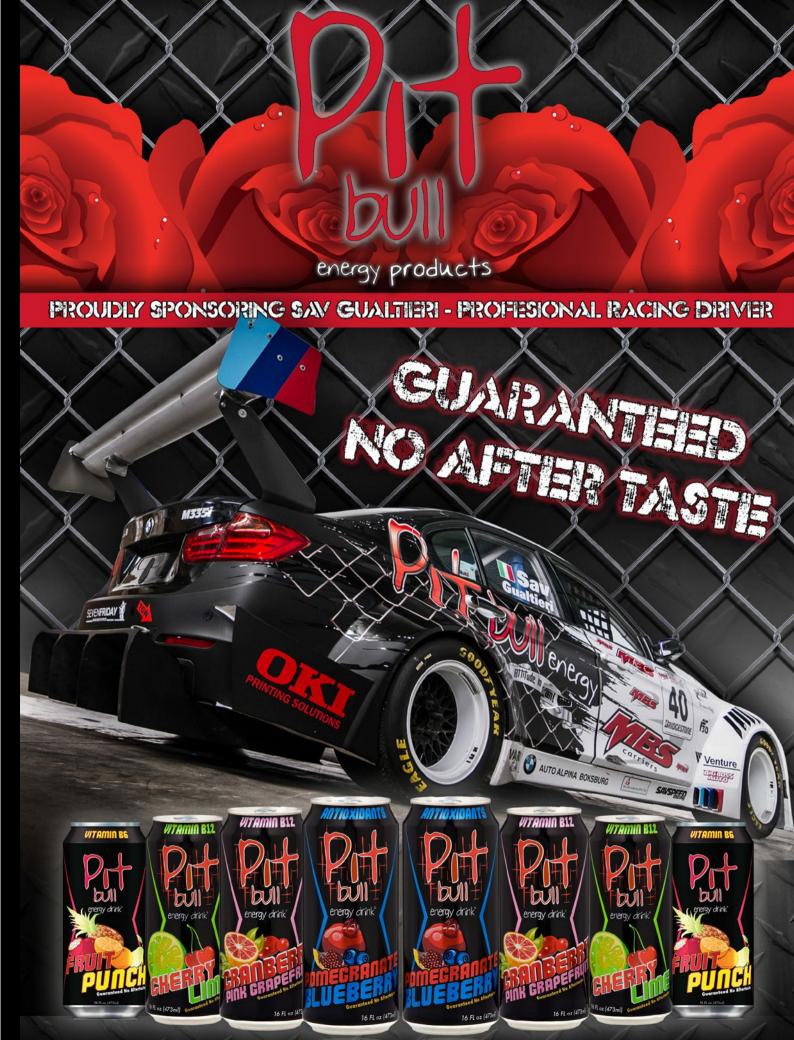
Push a button and the Skully's visor switches from an eye-defending dark, to a clear view, ideal for night riding

HEAD GAMES

The Skully AR-1 motorbike helmet lets you view directions, phone calls, and the road behind you without taking your eyes off the road.

When you're riding a motorbike, focus is everything. Even a quick glance at a mirror is enough to send you skidding. The Skully AR-1 is engineered to keep your pupils on the road. It's the first helmet with a built-in heads-up display. Projected onto the right-hand corner of the visor is live footage from a rear-mounted camera that shows the road behind, as well as your blind spots. The footage also shows speed, turn-by-turn

directions, and info gathered from a paired phone (calls, music). And no, the barrage of data won't distract you. Displayed transparently, it all appears within your natural sight line. What's more, the lid responds to voice commands, and its visor changes tint with the press of a button. The future never looked so safe. skullysystems.com



THRILL-SEEKERS

Mount up! The latest action cameras are smaller, sharper, and more capable of capturing your extreme (or extremely silly) antics than ever before.

by STAN HORACZEK



GoPro Hero4 Black Don't call it an action camera. The GoPro Hero4 Black edition is a cinema-quality shooter that just happens to mount to your helmet (or anywhere else). Measuring 40 by 60 millimetres, the latest iteration of the polycarbonateencased Hero films in both standard and 4K formats, and features a blazing processor that buffs up frame rates. There's no screen, so you can't eye your playback, but the crisp, hiccup-free footage wowed testers, as did the ability to adjust exposure settings, and film both time-lapse and slow-motion shots. It's a must for any serious adrenaline

junkie. R7 495; actiongear.co.za



















THE EYE

360flv Every action cam uses a wide-angle lens, but this one captures the entire 360-degree scene. The easy-tomount, 100-gram orb is equipped with an upward-facing lens that shoots continuous, 240-degree vertical footage, recording sharp frames of everything around and above you. Trippy stuff. R5 900; 360fly.com

THE BEGINNER'S BEST FRIEND

Polaroid Cube Meet your new knock-around camera. Roughly 3 centimetres tall, the pocket-size Cube is as capable as many larger models (it shoots 1080p videos, and holds up to 90 minutes on a micro-SD), but costs a third of the price. It's surprisingly durable and mounts easily, with a strong magnet on its base, securing it to nearly any surface. R2 991: wantitall.co.za

THE WIDE-EYED WONDER

Drift Ghost-S There's a lot to love about the Ghost-S, it's small, sharp, and captures scenes at up to 60 fps. But the specs we really enioved? The videotagging mode in which the camera snags a constant loop and lets you save shots with the press of a button, and the lens, which rotates up to 300 degrees for a large field of view. R4 995; actiongear.co.za

THE TOUGH

Ricoh WG-M1 No case needed. Out of the box, this flask-shaped camera can survive 2-metre drops, and underwater depths of 10 metres. Included is an impressive sensor, as well as a suite of HD capture modes. Testers dug the 4-centimetre LCD screen, which lets you compose shots, navigate menus, and preview captured action R3 604: wantitall.co.za

THE TINY, BUT MIGHTY SHOOTER

Sony Action Cam Mini Light done right. The Mini is super light, but it's stocked with serious photographic firepower (170-dearee lens. slo-mo, HD footage). Testers loved its size and simplicity. Opt for the Live-View Remote, which straps to your wrist and lets you review shots in real time. R4 070 (including remote); wantitall.co.za

PRO TIP WHEN IT COMES TO NABBING HIGH-QUALITY SHOTS OF HIGH-SPEED PURSUITS, YOUR BODY IS THE BEST MOUNT. NOT ONLY WILL THE RESULTING FOOTAGE BE SMOOTHER THAN IF YOU WERE TO MOUNT THE CAMERA TO, SAY, YOUR HANDLEBARS, BUT IT'LL ALSO HAVE A VIDEO GAME-STYLE POINT OF VIEW. SO, STRAP IT TO YOUR HELMET OR CHEST WHENEVER POSSIBLE. AND TRY TO SHOOT AT 60 FPS. YOUR ACTION VIDEOS WILL BE MUCH MORE CRISP, AND YOU CAN SLOW THINGS DOWN WHEN YOU'RE EDITING LATER.

THE ROAD TO BLUNCH BUILD BUILD

American football coach and Hall of Famer Vince Lombardi had this to say about the most important element when becoming a champion in any sport, "Mental toughness is many things and rather difficult to explain. Its qualities are sacrifice and self-denial. Also, most importantly, it is combined with a perfectly disciplined will that refuses to give in. It's a state of mind; you could call it 'character in action.'"

by BRANDON GOING

It is with these immortalised words reverberating in my mind that I reflect on the beginning of the Cricket World Cup this year. The event is an opportunity for South Africa's Proteas to banish, and somewhat exorcise, their demons of yesteryear. A new dawn steadily approaches, with a renewed vigour and the belief that the boys can finally bring it home. This current side has some of the finest cricketers of this generation, who are

well equipped, with either the bat, or the ball, and will go all the way this year. We all hope that come those critical moments (and they will come, believe me), where the balance of a game hangs by a thread, AB and the boys will find the composure and mental strength to forget about the ghosts of the past, but instead, forge ahead and inspire a brand new generation of South African Cricket World Cup winners.

















GROUP A

Australia: Hosting the tournament will obviously be a major advantage for the Aussies. Michael Clarke, their skipper, is still touch-and-go due to a recurring hamstring problem. However, if fit, he is more than capable of leading his side to World-Cup glory. The key players they will need in form and firing are star bowler Mitchell Johnson and batsman David Warner. The Aussies are known for their mental resilience, which was a hallmark feature, and they had a monopoly on the World Cup, winning the tournament 3 times in a row from 1999, to 2007. However, those players are long gone, and the new generation hasn't got that cloak of invincibility anymore. It is up to the other teams to be just as aggressive and accurate. And so, teams will have to ensure a fast start, putting the Aussies under pressure early, in order to test their capability of handling the pressure that comes with hosting a tournament many expect them to win. I do see the Aussies making it through to the semi-finals, and if their confidence is up, they will be amongst the bookies' favourites to take the Cup.

England: England will have a difficult tournament, because their lead-up to the global showpiece has been nothing short of poor and inconsistent. Alastair Cook has been dropped as captain, with the enigmatic Eoin Morgan taking over the reins. And, of course, they have lost their best batsman in Kevin Pietersen, due to the "Ashes failure" in Australia last year. Even though they do have a youthful squad, I struggle to find any X-factor players that can win a game on their own (such as AB de Villiers, David Warner, or players of that ilk). The closest they have is their new skipper, Morgan. Batsmen may set up games to win, but it is the bowlers who actually win games. Unfortunately, England has no standout fast bowlers who can terrorise the opposition, and it is here where they will fall short. England should get out of the group stage, but further progression is highly unlikely.

New Zealand: The Kiwis continue to punch above their weight in the cricketing fraternity, forever touted as the tournament's dark horse; they certainly do have some superb gamebreakers in both departments. Brendon McCullum, as a skipper and a batsman, is on the level of Chris Gayle. All-rounder Daniel Vettori, although a bit long in the tooth, can bat as well, and he's a very useful

one-day spinner. And Tim Southee, their frontline fast bowler, can be a real problem for a batsman. As co-hosts, they'll have the added advantage of playing their games at home, coming into the global showpiece after a terrific 2014 season across all 3 formats of the game. They have always been a superb fielding team, and I believe we'll be seeing them in the semi-finals. For the record, the Kiwis have made the semi-finals on 6 out of 10 occasions at the World Cup, but, no final. This year, they'll be more than the tournament's underdog.

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka will not find the conditions suitable for their brand of cricket. However, they are still an extremely dangerous side, with some of the most destructive batsmen in limited-overs cricket. Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara, the older statesmen, are match winners, along with the controversial bowler, Lasith Malinga. An interesting omission was that of mystery spinner, Ajantha Mendis. Considering the fast, bounce-friendly pitches in the Antipodeans, the selectors felt that he wasn't needed. However, I believe that Sri Lanka has missed a trick by not including him, especially considering the variation he produces ball in hand. Being the beaten finalists in India at the previous World Cup, I don't see them rectifying that and getting better. They are destined for the quarter-finals, but their lack of quality fast bowlers should result in their journey ending there.















GROUP B

India: Returning to the World Cup as holders of the trophy, they will have a lot on their plate as they try to replicate the dominance they showed at the 2011 tournament. The pitches will be completely different from their home tracks in India, and it is how they will deal with this that will make or break them. Filled with world-class batsmen and spinners, they could come unstuck due to their lack of firepower in the fast-bowling department. However, they are more than capable of defending their crown. Expertly led by the ice-cool M.S. Dhoni, and superbly supported by India's new Test captain and batting sensation Virat Kohli, they should make the semi-finals. Recently, India has also added a mental fortitude to the way they play the game, which makes them an even more dangerous proposition come the knockout stages. However, with that fervent support and cricket's popularity in India, there are high expectations that are never easy to appease. This squad is not of the same calibre as the 2011 team, but they still have plenty in their locker to retain the World Cup.

Pakistan: Pakistan is the Jekyll and Hyde of world cricket. In one game, they'll seem sublime and impossible to beat, then in the next one, they will throw away a quaranteed victory. It's truly impossible to see how they will fare in Australia. Unusually blessed with a great seam and spin bowling attack, it is their batting line-up that will be targeted. In modern 50-over cricket, teams literally have to have players who can bat right through the order, and it is here where the Pakistanis lack solidity. They have to be seen as a threat due to their ability to win games they shouldn't, but it is the complete opposite when they are expected to win, or turn in a big performance. They have been rocked by match-fixing scandals, and terrorist attacks on visiting teams, and they also play their cricket in Dubai, as Pakistan is no longer safe enough to host matches. While this may have galvanised them to some degree, the brilliance and absurdity go hand in hand. What they do have going for them is that the last time they won the World Cup, it was in Australia where no one gave them a snowball's chance in Hell. Their progression truly depends on which Pakistani side arrives at the game on that day... Jekyll or Hyde.

West Indies: The once great cricketing superpower is now a flickering light. Yes, in Chris Gayle they have a player who can literally win the tournament, but this is only true once you have reflected on the lottery that is 20-over cricket. The Windies are prone to batting collapses, and as a fielding unit, they seem to lose interest in what they are actually doing, with no truly world-class bowlers. The relationship between the board and the players is fraught with politics, lack of payments to players, player revolts, and infighting. They have only made it to the semi-finals of the tournament once, and I don't see them going further than the quarter-finals this year, even if Chris Gayle is on form. The controversial omissions of Kieron Pollard and Dwayne Bravo have also severely dented their already slim chances of World-Cup victory.

South Africa: "Is this our year?" That is the question every South African has on their mind. I believe that the Proteas will end a decade's worth of hurt and pain. This side is one of the strongest teams we've had since that ill-fated day in 1999. The team is blessed with two of the best batsmen in the world, Hashim Amla, the rock our innings are built around, and of course, the irrepressible, miraculous, and downright freakish AB de Villiers, who is, without question, the best cricketer in the world. In the bowling department, Dale Steyn is the world's premier fast bowler, more than ably backed up by Morne Morkel, who will go well with the pitches in Australia, due to the bounce and pace he extracts. We have lots of talent in the fielding department, with Faf du Plessis and JP Duminy who provide batting stability, and the latter who is a very useful partnership breaker with his off spin bowling. However, the litmus test for the Proteas is simply mental fortitude. Although they have arguably the best squad in the tournament, the "choker" will be firmly enshrined until the World Cup is in AB's hands. Just like with the All Blacks rugby team, who are constantly berated for their inability to win the global showpiece, the only way to banish the demons of bygone eras is to simply win. This means winning ugly, as well as coping with the pressure in knockout matches. There is no method for it, the only way to remedy it is to be in that situation of intense pressure, and handle it by any means necessary. Only then will the team and the public be able to see how far we have come. Dare I say it, but I see this finally being our year.

TOP 5 Batsmen to Shine at CWC 2015

1. AB de Villiers

He is arguably one of the greatest talents South Africa has ever produced, and there isn't much this lad can't do. I feel his nickname should be "Nobody," due to the saying that goes, "Nobody's perfect." He holds the record for the fastest century scored in ODI cricket, and his match-winning ability cannot be understated; it is paramount that he is kept fit throughout the campaign. His freakish ability to turn good balls into boundaries is worth more than gold. However, by the time he comes to the crease, a solid foundation needs to have been built, allowing his swashbuckling, innovative style of batting to be used to its maximum potential.

2. Hashim Amla

He is the bedrock from which the likes of Faf du Plessis and AB are able to strike, and he doesn't get the plaudits he deserves for his ability to score runs quickly. His calm demeanour will be invaluable when the high-pressure moments surface, as teammates will be reassured. merely by his steely glance, and will to win. His ability to reinvent himself over the years is a sign of a player filled with immense quality. Many felt like he was just a Test cricketer, but his change of style to suit the ODI format has blessed the Proteas with an opening batsman who deserves a World-Cup-winner's medal.

3. David Warner

The Aussie opening batsman is one of the most destructive forces in world cricket, much in the same mould as AB. His ability to make significant scores off very few balls will have bowlers all over the world concerned. Subduing him will prove to be a difficult task; however, his weakness is going for one shot too many. This may be dangerous, due to his sheer ability to knock the ball out of the park off a good delivery,

but bowlers may employ a plan of enticing him to go for the big shot on every occasion. This may result in overconfidence, causing him to make a mistake.

4. Virat Kohli

India's new wonderkid has just taken over the Test captaincy and looks very much the part, especially for his age. He is a superb batsman, with the ability to score on any surface. It is one thing to score centuries on a flat track in Eden Gardens, but it is another story doing it in South Africa, on fast, bouncy pitches, against the best bowling attack in world cricket. Blessed with major mental strength, he (along with ODI captain M.S. Dhoni) will be the key pillar on which India rests.

5. Mahela Jayawardene

Jayawardene is still as irreplaceable as ever. What makes him such a great player is his ability to get big scores in major finals, which sets him apart from his compatriots. That ability to be "the man" when your team needs it the most is unquantifiable in terms of value. He was instrumental in Sri Lanka getting to the final in 2011, and you can bet that the same will be expected with this year's tournament.



TOP 5 Bowlers to Shine at CWC 2015

1. Dale Steyn

The Phalaborwa Express is the world's best fast bowler. His ability to not only get wickets, but to create immense pressure through outthinking batsmen, is something we will not see for a very long time. Steyn is a once-in-a-generation player, and his speed, accuracy, and cerebral ability are right up there with the greatest fast bowlers we've ever seen. He is the key to winning the World Cup, purely because of his match-winning ability to take wickets at crucial times. If the Proteas are to win the Cup, Dale Steyn will probably be behind that.

2. Mitchell Johnson

He is a classic Australian fast bowler, aggressive, quick and intimidating, making him a very difficult player to face in any condition, let alone in his own country. Johnson has also earned the respect and admiration of cricket fans and pundits, due to his discipline and tenacity when he went from being dropped a few years back, to becoming one of the world's best fast bowlers. Where Johnson loses out, however, is in his erratic nature at times. He's very much a "confidence player," so, if he is not on song, a club cricketer could hit him for 6. However, if he is on song, he can be downright unplayable.

3. Morne Morkel

Morkel is very similar to Johnson in that he is a confidence player. However, he has shown more consistency of late, and the tracks in Australia will suit him perfectly, due to the bounce and pace he is able to generate off the deck. Morkel is a better ODI bowler than Test match bowler, and this is due to the nature of the two formats. Batsmen don't have a lot of time to "get in," especially when they are constantly being barraged with 140-kilometre balls aiming at their rib cages or heads. You can expect him to play a significant role in South Africa's pursuit for glory.

4. Tim Southee

The frontline paceman is in the league of his predecessor
Sir Richard Hadlee, because of his pace and amazing ability to swing the ball, which is a skill not many bowlers have. He is instrumental in New Zealand reaching the finals. The home conditions are perfect for him, because the pitches will assist with pace, and, of course, his own special skill for getting the ball to swing both ways.

5. Lasith Malinga

He is probably Sri Lanka's best fast bowler. His controversial actions have resulted in a lot of talk, but the ICC has said that they are in line with the rules. His most effective delivery is the yorker, and he is probably the best at it.

Top 5 South African Moments from the CWC

- 5. Jonty Rhodes is probably South Africa's greatest fielder, inspiring a generation with his ability to catch and run out batsmen with audacious speed. His cat-like reflexes inspired a generation that wanted to field like Jonty. His run out at the 1992 World Cup was simply breathtaking, running and diving into wickets, as the angle was too acute to throw. This moment of magic inspired the Proteas to beat Pakistan by 20 runs.
- 4. Lasith Malinga took 4 wickets against South Africa in 2007. South Africa looked to be steering towards a comfortable victory, until Malinga struck. Staring down the barrel of another South African collapse, Charl Langveldt and Robin Peterson saw them through to victory.
- 3. In 1992 at the semi-final, South Africa and England were contesting. South Africa, needing 22 runs from 13 balls, looked to be in control of the match, until rain stopped the game

for 12 minutes. Their total was revised to score 22 runs from a ridiculous one ball. England won, and the Duckworth-Lewis method was introduced after the controversial game.

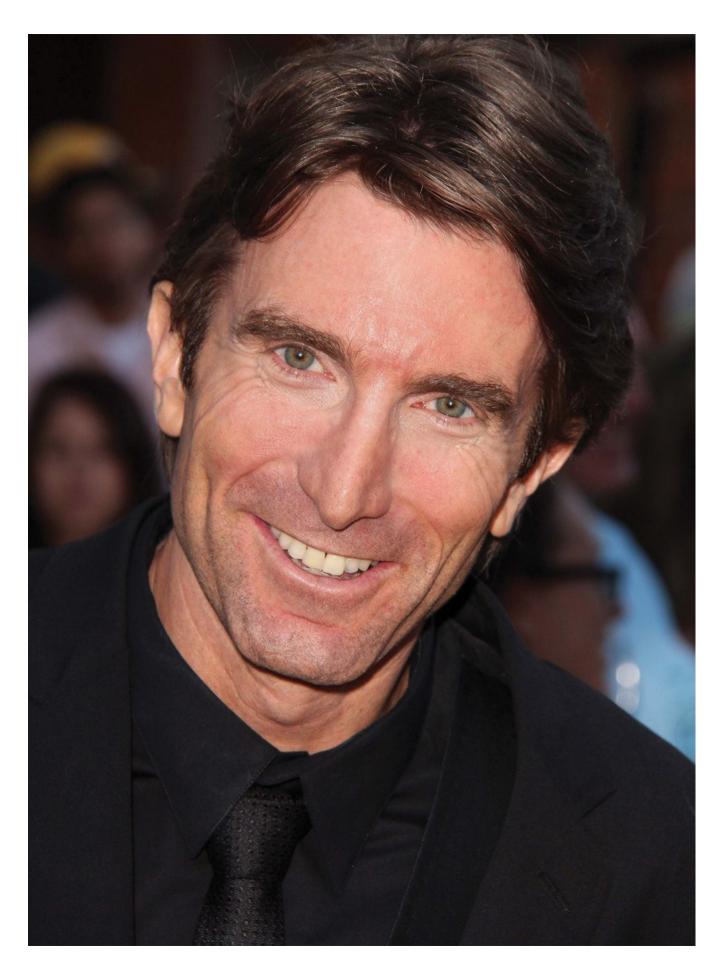
- 2. Herschelle Gibbs, the infuriatingly talented batsman, was one of South Africa's best fielders as well. Steve Waugh, the great technician of Australia's World Cup dominance, came to the crease and played a loose shot, which Gibbs caught and celebrated too early by not showing control of the catch. Legend has it that Waugh turned to Gibbs and said, "Mate, you just dropped the World Cup." How haunting those immortal words were to become.
- 1. Edgbaston, 1999, touted as one of the greatest World Cup matches with South Africa and Australia. If you ask any cricket fan about that day, they will tell you exactly where they were. The mix-up between Allan Donald and Lance Klusener has haunted South Africa for many years, covering the Proteas' World Cup legacy in a cheap suit. Let's hope this is not the case in 2015.











"PEOPLE WATCH MOVIES TO HAVE AN INTENSE, EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE, LIKE EXPERIENCING A HIGH-SPEED CHASE WITHOUT ACTUALLY BEING PARALYSED IF YOU CRASH."

How was the character Chappie created? Did a lot of special effects come into play? Chappie was created by a process similar to traditional motion capture. I wore a grey suit with tracking markers, and then I actually acted out the scenes on location with the other actors. Afterwards, the CGI artists animated Chappie over my exact movments, frame by frame, down to every finger movement I made.

The film was shot in Johannesburg. Do you enjoy coming home to work?

I absolutely love it! South Africa influences and informs me as an artist in countless ways. I'm so grateful that I keep getting to play these South African characters in big, Hollywood films. I love this country. I love the South African crews. There is soul in Africa.

How is South Africa doing on the visual effects and animation side? Did you use a South African crew to make *Chappie?* I've worked around the world, and, in my opinion, a good South African crew can match any crew, anywhere in the world. We used a South African crew to shoot *Chappie*, but all of the visual effects, sound, post-production, etc. were done in Canada. This is due to the fact that South Africa isn't right up there with the big boys of visual effects and post-production. However, we are improving, and there is some real talent in South

You've worked with some big Hollywood names. Have you ever been star-struck, and if so, by who?

Africa.

Funnily enough, because I was a producer and director before I started acting, one of the times I remember being a bit star-struck was when I met legendary TV producer Stephen J.Cannell. He created many hit TV shows in the '80s, including The A-Team, so I met him on the set of that movie. He came and had lunch with me in my trailer. I got to ask him all about how he had built his empire. It was a surreal experience.

What do you love most about working in the movies?

I love the exploration into human nature, the human condition, the exploration into what it means to have a personality, what it means to feel, to love, to fight, to cry, to fail, to get up, to fear, to feel conflicted, all of those things. I believe, deep down inside, people watch movies to "experience" life, as opposed to "escaping" it. People watch movies to have an intense, emotional experience, like experiencing a high-speed chase without actually being paralysed if you crash.

How is it working in our local industry vs. working in Hollywood?

Well, once everything's been green-lit, the filmmaking process is pretty much the same no matter which country you work in. However, the differences are notable on the actual business side of filmmaking. One of the biggest differences is that Hollywood is competitive. Hollywood has a vast entertainment culture, politics is less about monopolising the work, and there's a bigger focus on originality. In South Africa, it's about that "gold mining" mentality, a skill that powerful people in media seem to have, where they find a piece of the pie and protect it. They make sure that the competition doesn't get at the pie, rather than make more pie, if that makes sense. This is probably because this is a very tough business to make money in.

Where do you see the future of South Africa's film industry?

I think the future of the South African film industry is, in many ways, like the future of the country itself. We need to learn to expand the pie, rather than all grab for the same piece. The small pool of South African talent will be the one to pave the way for more original and internationally recognised South African content.

Chappie has some big Hollywood names. Who did you enjoy meeting and working with?

Dev Patel and I became really good friends

while shooting. Hugh Jackman is the nicest movie star I've ever met, and I loved doing scenes with him. We stayed in the same building, so I got to workout with Wolverine a couple of times at the gym. Interestingly enough, the "big name" I most enjoyed meeting was Johnny Clegg, and he's not even in the movie! One day, he came to watch us on set, because his youngest son is really into filmmaking.

In the movie Maleficent, you were a king who had Angelina Jolie's character lovesick. Millions of men would stampede to secure a spot in her heart, let alone break it. How was that experience?

Well, a word of warning... breaking the heart of a Hollywood icon is not advisable. She killed me and adopted my daughter (laughs). No, seriously, I love her, she's an amazing woman and actress. Angie's a real prankster, I've pulled pranks my whole life, so we had the most epic prank battle I've ever experienced.

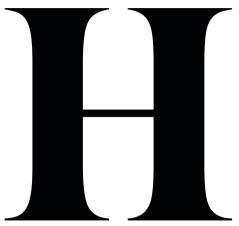
What other projects are you working on, and where will we see Sharlto Copley next? I have some cool upcoming films. There's *The Hollars*, a dramatic comedy directed by John Krasinski, co-starring Anna Kendrick and Josh Groban, to name a few. Then there is *Hardcore*, which I star in and also executive produced. The whole film is in the cyborg's point of view, a cyborg that has recently been brought to life. And *Powers* is coming soon, Sony PlayStation's first original series. I play lead homicide detective Christian Walker, who is tasked with investigating crimes involving superhuman powers. It's based on a famous comic book.



AMERICAN PIE ► JEN WILKE'S been feeding hungry eyes around the world, serving up a whole lot of sex appeal. But don't let that pretty face fool you, this country girl can get down and dirty when she wants to... believe us. by FARAI MAKONI



"I HAVE SOME OF THE SEXIEST LEGS... THEY LEAD UP TO MY AWESOME BOOTY!"



Hi, Jen! Any New Year's resolutions you've failed to keep?

This year, I decided to focus on fitness and a healthier lifestyle, but I ended up crashing my newfound diet within the first week, due to some delicious, homemade brownies (laughs). Since then, I've been whipping some self-discipline into my life by being much more strict with my exercise routine.

How about gifts, did you get any questionable presents that you'll be rewrapping and giving to someone else?

I tend to pick out my own surprises during the holidays, since I always make a wishlist online. The only downside is when I order something and it doesn't turn out to be what the website made it look like. I would rather put it to good use before getting a refund, so that re-gifting the e-gift is totally worth it.

How did you get into modelling?

I stumbled upon an online contest, and ended up winning thanks to the amazing people that voted for, supported, and believed in me. From there, I flew out for a shoot, and then ended up on the cover of a popular swimsuit calendar. Since then, I have been shooting a lot more, landing magazine covers/features left and right, and getting my name out there. I can't even tell you how blessed I feel to have come this far, and to have had so many cool opportunities. I can't wait to see what else the future holds!

What's the toughest part about your job?

The most difficult part is trying to look hot while you're holding one of the most uncomfortable poses that you have ever been in, in ice-cold water, with the wind blowing your hair into your mouth, and the photographer yelling at you not to move, but to get your hair out of your mouth (laughs). I guess I have an odd job, but I couldn't be happier.

Coming all the way from Texas, do you plan on visiting South Africa anytime soon?

I've seen some amazing pictures of the beaches in South Africa, and I'd love to visit sometime. It would be so much fun to surf, take pictures, and even ride horses up and down the sandy shores. Of course, I would need someone to show me all of the cool places, but he would also be stuck helping me with my massive amount of luggage.

You seem like that guy's girl who doesn't mind getting her hands a little dirty.

I was raised in the country, so, I'm used to getting a little dirty when I have fun (winks).

A little bird (that stalked you on the internet excessively) told us that you're into online gaming. If you were made into a game character, what would your special move be?

Well, now that you know my secret, I want to be a wizard that can shoot lightning or fire out of my hands, and blow stuff up with my mind (laughs). That doesn't sound too unreasonable, right? Pretty basic stuff.

Do you have any game characters you'd let put a ring on your finger?

I'm going to go with Vincent from Final Fantasy 7. It's kind of old school, but he's a solid character with an interesting story arc. Plus, he's so dark and edgy, which is hot.

Moving away from make-believe objects and towards real men, what turns you on in a guy?

A man with a sense of humour, an open mind, good hygiene, and self-respect. A man who goes after what he wants in life. Nothing is sexier than a man with dreams and aspirations.

What's the worst thing a guy can do when he is trying to score?

One of the grossest things in the world would have to be when a guy with bad breath tries to make a move. It's pretty much game over from there, and I'm sure women everywhere would agree. You've got to be aware of that stuff, or you'll get shut down before you even start.

Let's get a little vain. What's the sexiest part of your body?

I'm pretty sure that I have some of the sexiest legs on this planet, thanks to working out and staying toned. They are slender, smooth, and make my entire wardrobe look super cute. Plus, they lead up to my awesome booty (laughs)!

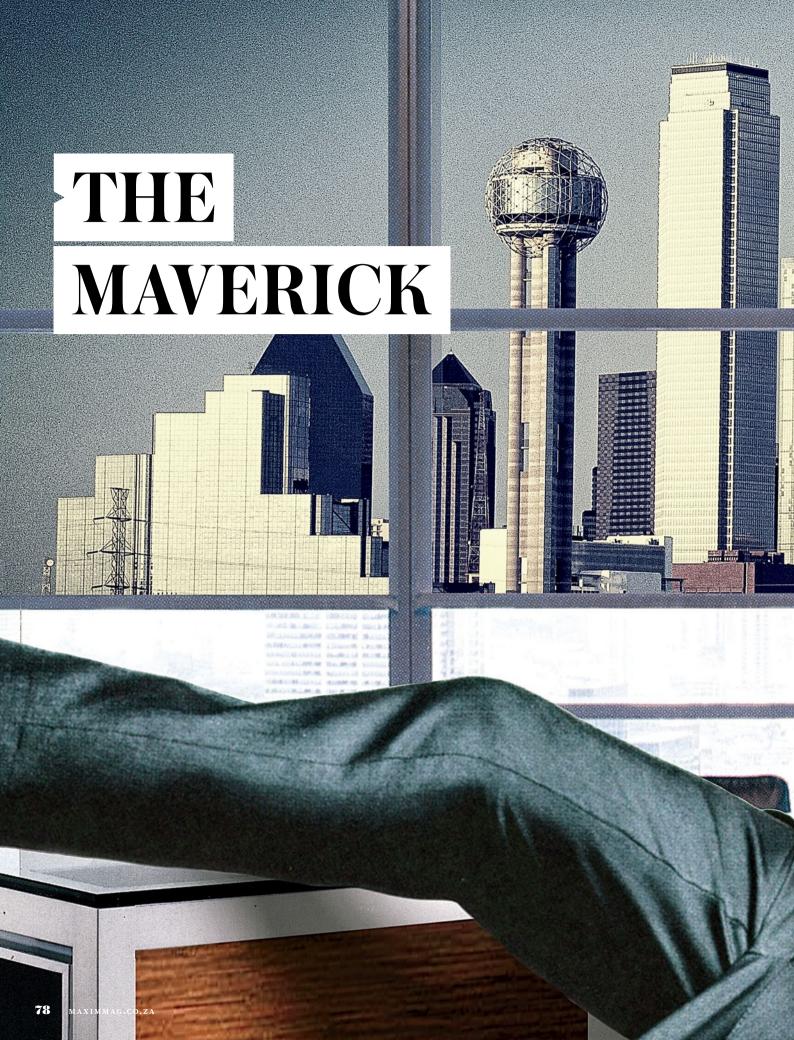
What will you be up to this year?

2015 is going to be even more amazing than last year, and last year pretty much rocked! I plan to keep on growing my social media numbers, to put myself out there as much as possible in order to meet new people, and to hopefully land bigger, better job opportunities. Make sure that you look me up online to follow and participate in my journey. I also have a couple of big announcements and, of course, I always have fun posts, and hot pictures on my social pages.



"THE MOST DIFFICULT PART IS TRYING TO LOOK HOT WHILE YOU'RE HOLDING ONE OF THE MOST UNCOMFORTABLE POSES THAT YOU HAVE EVER BEEN IN."







MARK CUBAN HAS JUST FINISHED

eviscerating a contestant on the reality show Shark Tank, where he works as one of the judges, or "sharks," who listen to pitches from aspiring entrepreneurs. I can't divulge what the contestant was pitching, but let's just say, it's an idea with a good shot at winning him buy-in. For a guy known for his outspokenness, he is often a quiet presence on the Shark Tank set, sitting serenely in a riveted, leather armchair, jotting down his thoughts in a notebook, occasionally making a pained expression, squinting, or pursing his lips. He doesn't have an especially good poker face, or maybe he's broadcasting his thoughts for effect, so he doesn't disappear from the cameras completely. Either way, Cuban tends to sit back and study the action while his co-sharks engage with a contestant, until, inevitably, the moment comes when he can't hold it in any longer. Then, fireworks. "My bullshit meter is going nuts," he tells the contestant, who has repeatedly made vague references to academic studies that "vouch" for his product, or maybe for the general idea of his product. It's not clear if the contestant is being disingenuous, or is simply a poor communicator; either way, Cuban is having none of it. Bullshit is one thing he does not tolerate. He tries several times to force a straight answer, and when it doesn't come, he can barely hide his disgust. When the pitch session finally ends, the sharks, their handlers, and crew members mass around the snack buffet to hash out what just happened. "It amazes me; people come out knowing Mark's going to be here and make claims like this guy," says fellow cast member Robert Herjavec. Someone else mentions that the show keeps a psychologist on hand for situations like these, when a contestant "gets shit on." Every good episode has a high-drama showdown like this one, and Cuban relishes on his ability to make the most of it. "I love those. You know me, I have fun," he tells me as he refills his coffee and heads off to get his makeup touched up, leaving everyone else buzzing in his wake. After a mostly tranquil day on set, he has shown, once again, why he is the show's undisputed star. Shark Tank is an incredibly popular show. Part of Shark Tank's appeal is that it's arguably the most

real show on reality television. The contestants are pursuing genuine business ventures, and the judges are investing their own money. It's a show about ingenuity, pluck, money, and playing to win. Cuban himself is the perfect judge, a self-made man whose net worth, according to Forbes, is around R31 billion, but that's only part of his appeal. Among Shark Tank fans, he's loved for being at once brutally honest, competitive, and surprisingly generous, for calling bullshit on bullshitters, yes, but also for the thoughtful advice he sometimes offers entrepreneurs, even when he's not investing. There's a lot to learn from his particular brand of success, and notoriety.

IF ALL YOU KNEW ABOUT MARK CUBAN

was that he starred on a hit TV show, you'd probably think he was a fairly busy, high-achieving guy. The reality is that he has his hands in more than 100 companies. He has a movie distribution company, Magnolia Pictures, and a chain of artsy movie theatres. He has a TV network, and more than a few tech companies in his portfolio. And through Shark Tank, he has invested in everything from a stand-uppaddleboard maker, to a sippy-cup maker. Oh, and he's got an incredibly hot wife, and three kids. It's easy to look at all that and chalk it up to the advantages of being a billionaire. After all, opportunity flows to the wealthy, right? But about 30 years ago, none of it existed, and Cuban was just the working-class son of an auto upholsterer, putting himself through university. During his senior year, he embarked on his first entrepreneurial adventure, using his student-loan money to buy a local bar that was going out of business. Cubes and his buddies turned out to be good party promoters, and the place was an instant hit, with lines out the door. He might still be there if it wasn't for his first brush with infamy. One night, the bar threw a wet-T-shirt contest, and the local newspaper ran a story about it with a picture of the winner, who turned out to be a 16-year-old girl on probation for prostitution. Oops. The bar didn't survive the scandal, and soon after he graduated, Cuban left his small town in search of the good life, sunshine, money, and attractive women. He was "poor as fuck" and moved into a three-bedroom apartment he shared

with five other guys; he slept on the floor. He landed a job at a software retailer and set out to learn the business. He didn't know a thing about computers, but figured nobody else did yet either, and that meant he'd get a head start. The job didn't last, Cuban got fired when he defied his boss and went to meet with a potential client one morning, rather than show up and sweep the shop floors. But before he left, he managed to establish two of the hallmarks of his success.

MAN OF 1 000 FACES

Over the past 20 years, Mark Cuban's smiling, snarling, dare-youto-punch-me mug has become a fixture in from boardrooms, to nightclubs, to the

courts of the NBA, the stage of Shark Tank, Dancing with the Stars, and even the animated worlds of American Dad, and The Simpsons.



PLAYING FOR KEEPS

THE RECORD-SETTING CAREER OF MARK CUBAN.



MONEYMAKER

As Cuban once said, "Money is a scoreboard." On July 17, 1998, the first public shares of his online streaming service, Broadcast.com, reached record heights on the **stock market**. Offered at around R200 a piece, they closed at R720. That's a 249 percent leap, at the time, the best one-day gain in history.



BIG SPENDER

Soon after selling Broadcast.com to Yahoo for R66 billion, Cuban bought a R400-million **Gulfstream V jet** on his computer, earning a Guinness World Record for the largest online purchase ever

One, he recognised a hot industry that would only get hotter (computers, duh), and two, he did more homework than everyone else, in the belief that if he armed himself with more information than the competition, he'd make more sales. "I'd stay up all night reading the software manuals," Cuban remembers. If a customer had a question, he had an answer ready. By the time he got fired, the crammingfor-finals strategy had paid off enough that one of his corporate clients agreed to put up a little bit of money for him to start his own software sales firm. Cuban is the first to point out that he didn't have an inherent passion for computer systems. It was the sense of competition that drove him to launch MicroSolutions; he wanted to win in "the sport of business." Win he did. After seven years, he sold MicroSolutions for R60 million, which, after he paid taxes and distributed money to his 80 employees, left him with about R20 million for himself.

"I started living like a rock star," he says, "I was trying to sleep with as many girls as I could, drink as much as I could." One of his first rich-guy purchases was a lifetime pass on an airline, a R1,5-million investment that allowed him and a guest to travel anywhere, anytime, for the rest of his life. R20 million was a lot of money, especially in the late '80s, but it's not the kind of money that lasts forever, so Cuban started trading stocks. Over the next six years, he grew his fortune tenfold, until he was sitting on more than R200 million. "I killed it as a trader," he says, "I was doing so well that a bunch of guys from

Goldman Sachs came to me, took my trading records, and we created a hedge fund that we sold less than a year later." At which point Cuban was ready to get serious again. Just as MicroSolutions had caught the PC wave early, Cuban's next start-up, Audionet, was quick to the consumer Internet. It was 1995, and Cuban recognised that, although the web was mostly a text-based tool, people would soon be using it for audio and video (again, duh). Four years later, at the height of the late-'90s dot-com bubble, Yahoo bought the company for R60 billion, of which Cuban was able to keep about a third. If he was living like a rock star in the early '90s, he entered the 2000s living like... well, a 40-year-old billionaire. He gave his lifetime airline pass to his dad and bought himself a Gulfstream V, the longest-range private jet on the market, which he snared for R400 million and paid for, naturally, over the Internet. He got a big, empty mansion in a tony neighbourhood, bought an NBA team, and got himself fined for "conduct unbecoming of an NBA owner" (for sitting on the floor on the sidelines during a game, which he continued to do until the league stopped fining him). He bought his way into the movie business, did a stint on Dancing with the Stars, got thrown through a table on WWE Raw, and somewhere in there, the act of being Mark Cuban became a very big business of its own.

TO GET A BETTER SENSE OF HOW CUBAN thinks and works, consider the NBA's clear-path foul rules. It used to be that such a foul resulted in one free throw, plus possession, for the team

that had been fouled. That didn't smell right to Cuban, so, one day, a few years ago, he decided to investigate the probability of scoring an uncontested layup, versus that of making a free throw and scoring on the following possession. It turned out that it was in the defensive team's best interest to commit a clear-path foul, rather than allow a breakaway, which didn't make any sense. Cubes presented his case to the league, which subsequently changed the rule so that the foul resulted in two free throws, plus possession. That changed the equation enough that the defence suddenly had a good reason not to commit a clear-path foul, clearly a fairer situation. According to Cuban, the lesson is, just because it ain't broke, doesn't mean it's optimal. It's a very "Cubesian" way of thinking, a data-driven form of dissent. Like so many of his peers in the start-up culture, Cuban looks for weaknesses in the established order and attempts to disrupt them with a better way. And just as he became a successful software salesman by arming himself with knowledge, he creates disruptive change by first doing the research to make a case, then selling the shit out of it. Today, he is excited about another NBA rule he's been trying to alter. Not surprisingly, he hates "flopping," the whole thing of players throwing themselves to the ground in order to incite foul calls from the refs. To Cuban, it's the equivalent of being a bullshit artist. Rather than just bitch about it, he put down R1 million to fund a study on flopping, with a team of biomechanical engineers. The



MAVERICK

In 2000, Cuban paid a then-record R3 billion to buy the Dallas Mavs from Ross Perot Jr. When *Forbes* valued the team at around R8 billion in January 2014, Cuban said the figure was "way too low." He was right. Four months later, Steve Ballmer offered R23 billion for the Clippers.



TRASH-TALKER

In 2002, Cuban received an NBA-record R6-million fine for criticising the league's director of officials. In April, Cuban lost the mark to Donald Sterling, who earned a R28-million fine for his boneheaded racist slurs. Not to worry, Cubes still owns the record for most fines received (20).



HUMANITARIAN

In 2012, Cuban offered to pay R11 million for a haircut. The catch? The haircut was for his outspoken nemesis **Donald Trump**, who had to shave his whole head. Cuban volunteered to donate the money to the charity of Trump's choice. Trump tweeted, "Offer me real money and I'd consider it."

researchers wired a bunch of players with motion-capture technology, put them in contact situations, and analysed the forces at work to learn the true effects of various collisions. "The answer so far is no," Cuban says of the early results, "If you run into a guy, it's not natural for him just to fall on his ass." He smiles, no doubt imagining how he's going to use this information to change the game. Biometrics, the study of data related to our bodies, has become one of Cuban's secret weapons. Every basketball player, for instance, has his blood drawn and analysed four times a year. Cuban does it, too. "If you get sick, that's the worst time to take blood," he explains, "It's one of the dumbest things doctors do. They take your sick blood and compare it to the general population's. What we want to know is, if a player has had thyroid levels here for the past four years, and suddenly, they're down here, what is going on? And you can't see that variation unless you establish a baseline." Some teams employ an in-house psychologist who travels to each game with the team for a similar reason. Historically, Cuban says, when players had personal issues, they had to take them up with the coach. "But you can never be totally honest with the coach, because the coach controls playing time! So, we just have someone there for whenever they need to talk, and the number-1 rule is that I have no idea how many sessions the players have, or what they talk about." I should mention that Cuban is peeing during part of this conversation, and I'm standing awkwardly

about a metre away, with the door open between us. We've just returned from lunch in a building not too far from the Shark Tank soundstage, and we stopped in his little trailer just off set. The sharks wear the same clothes all season long, so that shoots from different days can be spliced together to create seamless episodes, and Cuban desperately needed to change into an identical shirt, the one he wore all morning had turned orange around the collar. It was a little odd as he stood bare-chested in front of me, and odd again as he fumbled over and over with his cufflinks and I offered to help. But none of that seemed to register with him, so I shouldn't have been surprised when he stepped into the next room and started whizzing. I mention this, because it illustrates Cuban's particular brand of (pardon the pun) cockiness. For all the homework he does and the data he gathers, he can still give off the air of a dude snapping towels in a locker room. Also, I can confirm the dude is a well-takencare-of 56-year-old man, partly because of his constantly monitored biometrics. He takes thyroid medication these days, because his blood work showed an inconsistency. He had his hip replaced a few years ago, and he's about to do the other one. He gets steroid shots in his back, so he can keep playing hoops with his buddies. He stopped drinking beer in 2012, to avoid "wheat belly," and now sticks to vodka and soda. He's also remarkably ageless, with an almost complete lack of wrinkles on his face.

A FEW MONTHS AGO, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE controversy surrounding then-Clippers owner Donald Sterling's racist comments, Cuban made headlines for his own insensitive remarks. At a conference for entrepreneurs, he professed to having "bigoted" thoughts, describing a hypothetical situation in which he crosses the street at night when he sees a black guy in a hoodie, and again when he sees a white guy with tattoos and a shaved head. The Twitter storm that followed added copious amounts of fuel to an already raging debate on racism in America, and Cuban watched, for the millionth time, as a quote of his took on a life of its own and defined him in a way he thought was deeply unfair. Cuban later apologised for the hoodie reference. The episode came at a moment when Cuban had become increasingly worked up about privacy. Late in 2013, he won a five-year court battle with the SEC (an agency in the USA that enforces security laws) over insider-trading allegations. His emails and blogs and social media posts were all subpoenaed in the process and, he says, the prosecution used many of his quotes out of context and distorted them. He spent more on legal fees than he would have if he'd just settled the case, but for him, going to battle was a matter of principle, just as it had been when he was fined R1 million by the NBA for sitting on the floor, cross-legged, during a basketball game. "I am glad this happened to me," Cuban told reporters after the jury sided with him, "I'm glad I can afford to stand up to the SEC."

Ever the entrepreneur, Cuban decided that this experience of having his private messages used against him presented a business opportunity. He launched a new company called Cyber Dust, which is a messaging app that works something like a combination of Twitter and Snapchat, but with the key difference that nothing gets stored on the company's servers. When the message disappears, it's gone forever. He's also invested in a company called Xpire. which allows users to select the time when their Facebook posts and Twitter messages will self-destruct. Over the course of our conversations, Cuban steers the subject back to privacy again and again. "Man, you've got to shrink your digital footprint," he says, "The minute you send a text, you don't own it anymore, but you're still responsible for it. Think about what that means. What you create on social media, who you follow, the information from your emails, how you write, the pictures you save on Dropbox. All that together creates a profile that's even more detailed than how you know yourself. People should be freaked out about that." The SEC experience prompted this outrage, but lately, it has bled more into his private life. "I started thinking about every text I've ever sent. I don't know who kept it, or what they might do with it. It could have been the most innocuous thing, a joke to a friend. 'Oh, vou motherfucker! You son of a bitch, I'm going to kick your ass!' What if that friend gets pissed at me for something, and kept that text? Boom! I'm done with. I think about my 10-year-old daughter. She doesn't text yet, but the day is coming when she sends the most benign text to some idiot kid, and he is going to fuck with her."

Cuban's expanding celebrity, thanks largely to Shark Tank, has also contributed to his cautiousness. "Mark doesn't go out much anymore; it's just too crazy," says Brian Dameris, a long-time buddy and employee. At heart, though, Cuban is still a small-town jock, a man of the people, so he avoids the easy temptation to insulate himself from the world. He sits in the stands with regular fans at basketball games, answers his own emails, doesn't employ a publicist. "We don't have servants, we don't have butlers, at home it's just us!" he says, "My biggest fear now is that my kids are going to be assholes. I don't want them to be entitled jerks, so we try to do everything as a family, try to keep us as

normal as possible."

I ask him if he has a driver, so that he can sit in the back like most moguls, and wrangle player contracts? "Fuck no, I don't have a driver," he says, offended that I'd even suggest it, "I have a Lexus, I drive myself."

MARK CUBAN IS A LOT OF THINGS, BUT chief among them is that he's a businessman. He wants to make money, a lot of it. It's not altogether surprising, then, despite his concern about digital privacy, and high hopes for Cyber Dust, that one of his other companies, Motionloft, tracks pedestrians as they pass stores, providing retailers with info they can use to target customers. It's the kind of thing that gives privacy advocates fits. Forget digital footprints. Now our actual footprints can be monitored for commercial reasons, too. Cuban shrugs when I ask him if he's being a little hypocritical by investing in Motionloft. "Of course, yeah. I'm playing both sides against the middle," he says, "If people don't care and Cyber Dust doesn't do as well, Motionloft takes off." Similarly, he recently invested in a digital publishing start-up called Ratter, a network of aggressive, salacious local tabloids. That Cuban invests in companies that traffic in things he says he hates is a perfect illustration of what makes him such an enigma. It's easy to view the contradictions as evidence that he's amoral and impulsive, even reckless. He sees it as evidence that he's cautious and calculated. "I tell people all the time, I'm not a crazy risk taker," he says. Sometimes, that requires hedging his bets. Sometimes, it means passing on opportunities with limited upsides. At one point during the Shark Tank shoot, he declines to back a pair of entrepreneurs, because the investment they're seeking doesn't go with the potential payoff, despite the decent likelihood that the company will triple or quadruple his money. As Cuban explained to me later, it would have been a "no-brainer" if he thought the deal would gain him a twentyfold return. In general, though, Cuban's protection against making bad bets is, as always, to do more homework than anyone else. "You can't get anything over on him," says Dameris, "His gift is consuming information. He takes it all in, reads a thousand emails a day, runs a major basketball team, and all these other businesses, and manages to process it all. If

he asks you a question and you try to fake an answer, he knows. He'll be like, 'I read that yesterday in a newspaper, and the reality is this, and this, and this.'" Whenever Cuban looks like he's improvising, you can bet a good amount of preparation went into the moment.

As the long day of shooting winds down, Cuban agrees to act out a few stock lines that can be used to punctuate the footage of the day's pitches. It starts with some subdued. rehearsed-sounding quotes. He squints his eyes just so, miming intense deliberation. "I should have been out earlier. I'm out now," he says, "I don't see any way you're ever going to be profitable. I don't see a path to profitability. I'm out." He starts building in intensity, the lines getting more bite as he goes, "I have no interest in this area at all. I'm out. Time is my most valuable asset, and I'm giving none of it to you. I'm out." He lowers his eyes in mock scolding. "This is a bad idea. I'm out." He starts hamming for the camera, a rapid succession of facial expressions that might get edited in at some point, a raised eyebrow, a deep sigh, a belly laugh, an eager lick of the lips. He's on a roll now, having fun, just Cuban being Cuban, seeming almost oblivious to the cameras and recording equipment.

"I'm out, you bitch-ass motherfucker. I will kick your ass!" He stands up to go. He has work to do. ■



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THE SCENE ONE
SMOKIN' STRUT AT A
TIME... JENA DOVER.

by FARAI MAKONI





"THE MEN WHO APPROACH METENDTO BE MORE, HOW SHALL I PUT IT... ORIGINAL," JENA.

Thank you for making our childhood every morning on KTV. How was it being in the entertainment industry so young? I only understand now what a privilege it was to have participated in so many people's childhoods. I can't really compare my life in the entertainment industry to anything else, because it's all I know. There were times when I was tired and stretched, but I was given so many irreplaceable opportunities, complaining would be ungrateful.

Well, we're glad you didn't turn into one of *those* childhood stars. You don't have a mugshot, do you?

I have a few bad photos that could be likened to mugshots. Does that count?

Well, what's the closest-to-illegal thing you've done?

I once stole a pretty, rainbow-coloured, scented eraser from a stationary shop when I was 6. My mother made me return it and apologise to the owner. That knock to my ego kept me from doing anything illegal for the rest of my life.

You are a lawyer, so we're sure you could talk yourself out of any sticky situation. How do you juggle both worlds?

There is a popular saying that holds water, "If you want something badly enough, you will find a way; if not, you will find an excuse." The most important aspect in a busy life is maintaining a supportive team made of your family, agents, and bosses.

You've starred in a number of movies. Do you plan on taking your acting further? I act as much as I can. There is no part too small. The only way I could take it further is to write and perform my own material. You need to experience enough of life in order to write anything meaningful. I believe I'm now at that stage where I hold interesting views on matters, and I can make interesting material from that.

What's the toughest scene you've done? Probably my scenes in *Shotgun Garfunkel*, which we hold a Guinness World Record for the fastest film ever made. I heard about the casting and received half the script the day before, literally. We had a maximum of two takes for each scene.

What would your ultimate role be? I'd love a part in *Orange is the New Black*. Have you seen the show? Mind-blowing performances, and delicious characters! I'd love to play a colourful new inmate.

Would you be playing Piper's love interest, by any chance?

(Laughs) That isn't the reason I would like a role on *Orange is the New Black*. Great writing and fantastic performances may just be the appeal (winks).

Did you always know you'd turn out to be the object of every man's desire?

It certainly was never an intention of mine. "Every man" is also pretty strong. I like to think of myself as more of a "thinking-man's woman." The men who approach me tend to be more, how shall I put it... original.

What attracts you to a man?

A gentleman who is smart, well read, and kind, with the occasional controversial thought on a subject matter (to keep it interesting).

As our real-life Superwoman, how do you plan on taking over the world this year? I have a very exciting year ahead. I'm continuing with *Rhythm City*, and modelling, and I have a few other productions here and there. I have also started laying the foundation for a more intellectual existence within the media industry in South Africa. Vague, but I can't wait to share more on that!







ABOVE

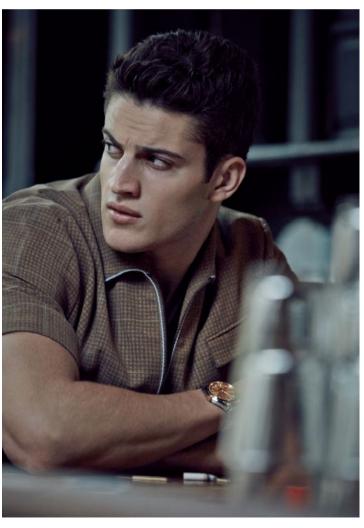
Blue, notch-lapel jacket, and trousers, Roberto Cavalli. Charcoal, knit tank, John Varvatos. Seamaster 300 Co-Axial Master timepiece in 18kt gold, Omega. OS 1073/S sunglasses, Oxydo. Cotton sateen, busdriver jacket, Todd Snyder. Tricot T-shirt, Tomorrowland. Silk and wool trousers, Bally.

RIGHT

Wool, zip-front, plaid shirt, Salvatore Ferragamo. Darkgreen, silk shirt, Emporio Armani. Seamaster Aqua Terra timepiece, Omega.

OPPOSITE PAGE

(From left) Polo, Ermenegildo Zegna. Pleated trousers, Porsche Design. Suede loafers, Jack Erwin. Blue, leather bomber jacket, BOSS Hugo Boss. Jacquard-front polo, Original Penguin. Orsk trousers, Peuterey. Loafers, Fratelli Rossetti. Lifeguard polo, Lucio Castro. Pleated trousers, and leather belt, Michael Kors. Canvas, slip-on sneakers, DKNY.

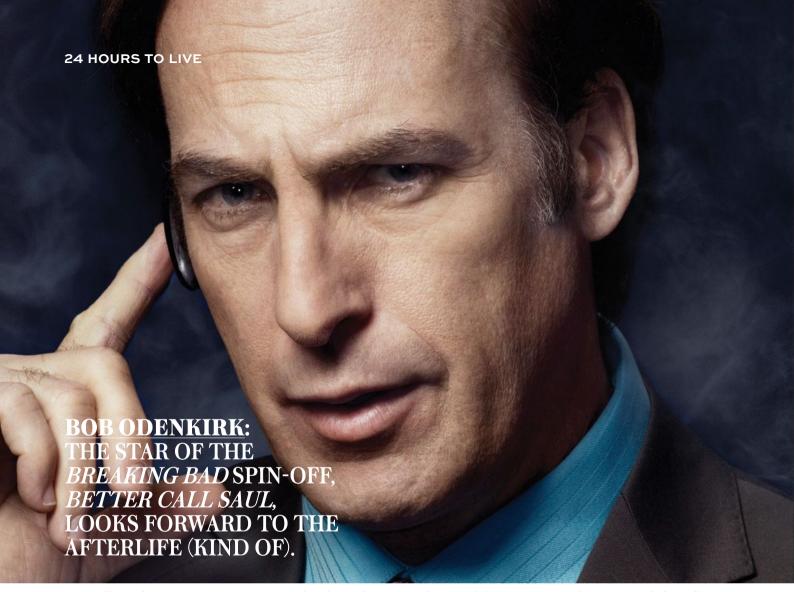








(From left) V-front polo, Louis Vuitton. Trousers, Oliver Spencer. Navy belt, Will Leather Goods. Suede jacket, Brunello Cucinelli. Knit tank, John Varvatos. Copper, pleated, cotton trousers, Salvatore Ferragamo. Circa timepiece, Movado. Goat-suede jacket, John Varvatos. Moss-green polo, Ermenegildo Zegna. Blue, pleated, cotton trousers, Salvatore Ferragamo. White, waffle-knit polo, Perry Ellis. Pink, linen blazer, Hickey Freeman. Trousers, Ermenegildo Zegna. Constellation timepiece, Omega. Grey, leather belt, BOSS Hugo Boss.



How will you die?

Paraskiing, forgot my chute, put my skis on backwards... so the rescuers just shake their heads and laugh.

Deathbed confession?

I was a total fake and fraud. But you knew that already, didn't you? Thanks for keeping it under your hat.

Last meal?

A shrimp wrap. The best.

To whom on Earth do you owe an apology, and for what? Everybody I ever gave advice to,

Everybody I ever gave advice t so... everybody.

Which of the Seven Deadly Sins gave you the most trouble?

It's either sloth, or pride. Sloth, not because I didn't use a lot of elbow grease, but because I could've done more. And pride, because I have often been Mr Pride. In fact, I've been voted Mr Pride '75, '79, '84, '87-'93, and again '95-'98!

What do you know now that you didn't know at 25?

It's not leading anywhere, so just enjoy it.

What's a real-life situation in which you would have been better off calling Saul?

Trying to get my security deposit back from a landlord. Wasn't going to happen without a man of Saul's dexterity.

Saul's motto was, "Better safe than sorry." What's yours?

"Let's do this."

Are you going to Heaven, or Hell?

I'll go to a place that is a never-ending, far-as-the-eye-can-see sports bar, tons of screens, every game on Earth, pinball, and slot machines, and Sammy Hagar playing round the clock. So... Hell.

What's the craziest thing you ever did here on Earth?

Spent a night on the lip of a volcano off Sicily that exploded every 40 minutes or so. That, or the hike I took with a 6-year-old boy along the Grand Canyon. That was insane and horrible.

Name one thing you're glad you'll never have to do again.

Walk the Grand Canyon with a 6-year-old boy.

What would you like to be reincarnated as?

Definitely a hawk, you get to fly real strong and slow way up in the sky, and you get to eat all the rat meat you can catch.

You were the co-creator of *Mr Show*. What sketch do you most regret failing to get on the air?

"Gay Proud Grampa."

What will it say on your tombstone?

"See? I knew this would happen!"





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